



Shojo Beat Manga

love★com™



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

6



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The Story So Far...

Riso and Ôtani are their class's lapsed comedy duo...except that now, Riso's fallen in love with Ôtani! With the support of their friends, Risa screws up the courage to tell him how she feels...only to be turned down. Even so, she decides not to give up on him just yet...

But then, Ôtani's ex-girlfriend Mayu (very cute) suddenly shows up and wants to see him! Funny Girl Risa thinks it's all over for her...but for some reason, Ôtani tells Mayu he can't get together with her. A faint flicker of hope lights up again in Risa's heart...

So when Valentine's Day rolls around, Risa plans to give Ôtani a "for real" valentine—but thanks to Haruka bursting into their classroom and causing a scene, now everybody knows he turned her down before. This makes Ôtani feel he can't accept a "true love" valentine from Risa, and he rejects her homemade chocolate offering for the second year in a row! Risa, however, says Ôtani did nothing wrong, and forces him to take it...

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* vols. 1-5, available at bookstores everywhere!!

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**RISA
KOIZUMI**



**LOVELY ★
COMPLEX**



**ATSUSHI
ÔTANI**

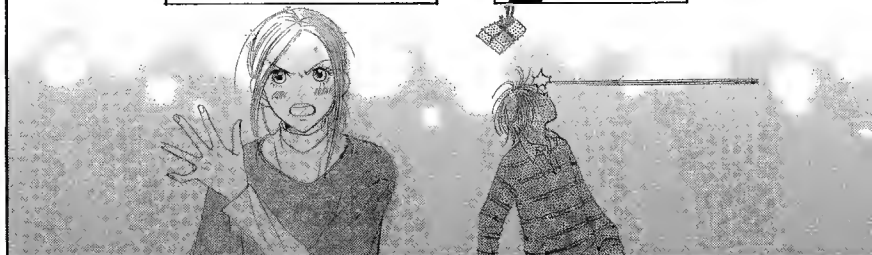


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...ÔTANI
SAID IT'S
A "TOUGH
CALL" IF HE
WANTS TO
GO OUT
WITH ME
OR NOT.

ACCORDING
TO MY
SOURCE'S
SOURCE...

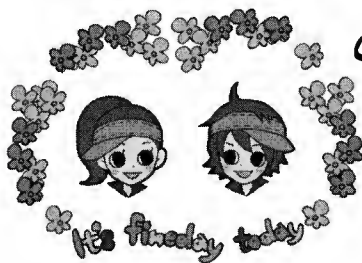
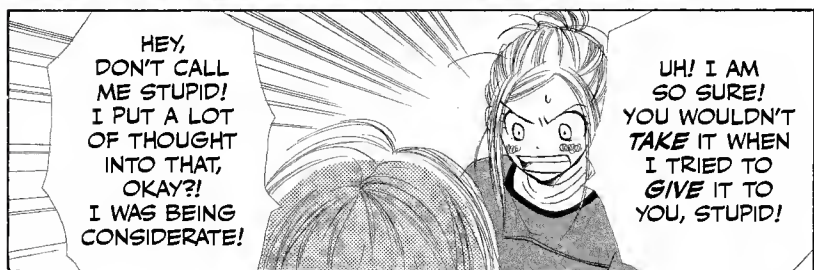
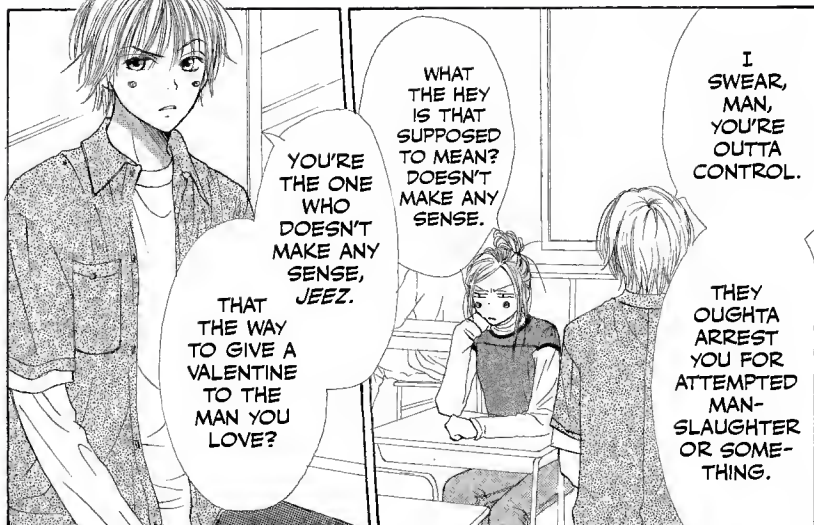


OH,
SHUT
UP AND
GO
AWAY.

IT'S
TOTALLY
UNBELIEV-
ABLE.

I MEAN,
JEEZ,
LOOK
AT THIS!
IT'S STILL
THERE
AFTER A
WHOLE
WEEK.

I'M
SCARRED
FOR LIFE BY
A VALENTINE
HURLED AT
MY HEAD.



CHAPTER 21



THE
SAME
SOURCE

...

...TOLD MY
SOURCE
THAT HE
ALSO
SAID...

AND
I GAVE
YOU
ANOTHER
ONE
LATER,
DIDN'T I!
A NICE
ONE!

*Haruka
did a
switch!*

WELL,
I DIDN'T
PUT THAT
THERE!!

AND WHAT
DO I GET FOR
MY TROUBLE?
YELLED AT.
AND A SHARP
CORNER IN MY
FOREHEAD.

PLUS, WHEN
I OPEN THE
BOX, THERE'S
A CARTOON
POOP ON MY
VALENTINE.
△



WHAT'S
SO DARN
FUNNY
ABOUT
IT?!

FINE,
'CUZ I'M
COUNTER-
SUING
YOU!!

NEXT
TIME WE
MEET
IS IN
COURT!!

'CUZ I'M
SUING
YOU FOR
DEFAMA-
TION!!

RISA
DOESN'T
SEEM
VERY DEV-
ASTATED,
DOES
SHE?

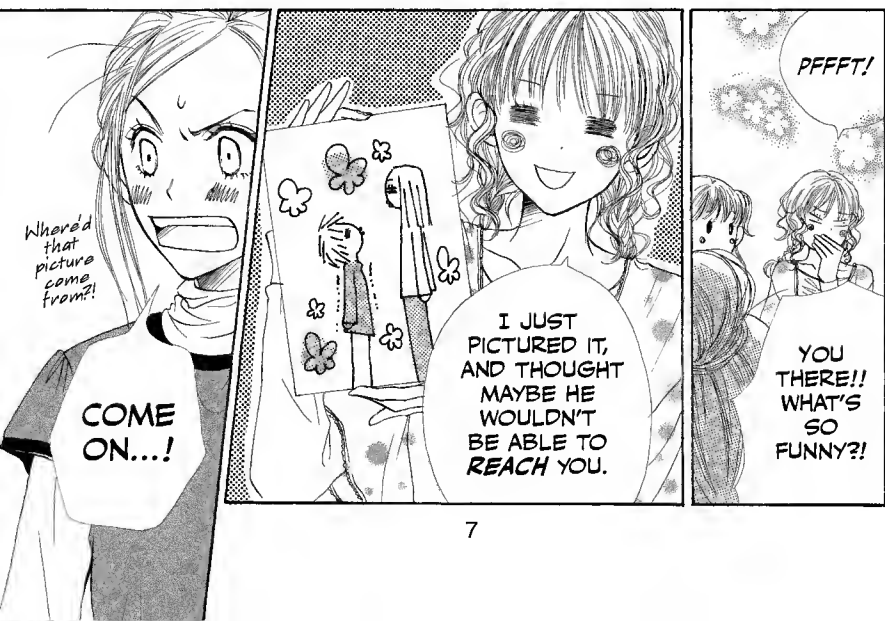
*They're
just like
before.*

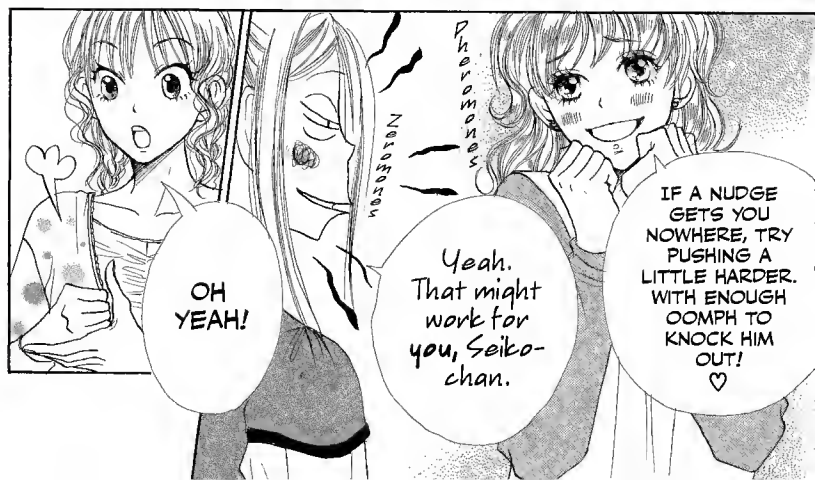
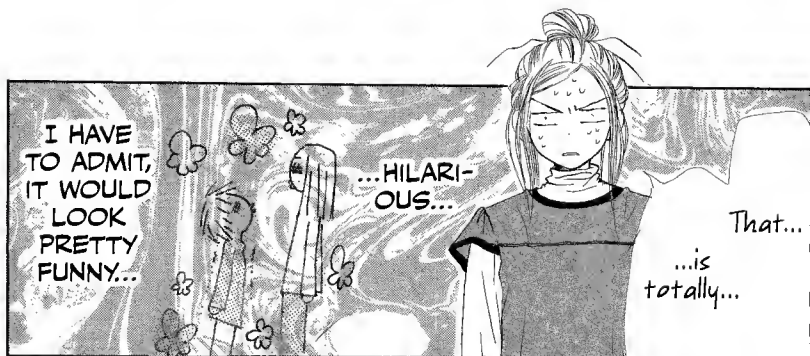
WELL,
JEEZ,
DUDE, I
MEAN...

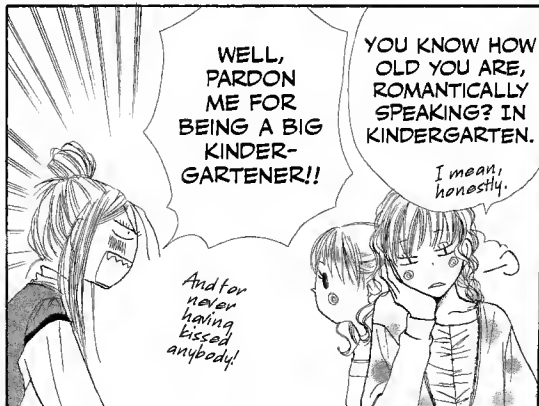
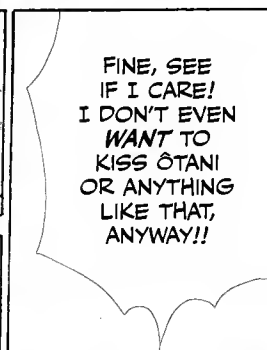
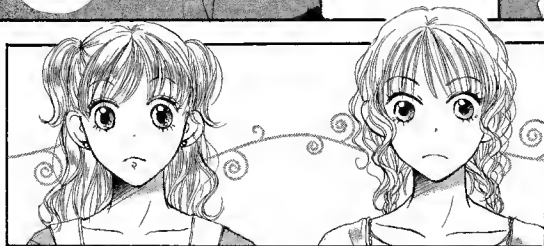
LIKE, IF
WE GO
OUT, WE
KISS AND
STUFF,
RIGHT?!

WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
ME AND
KOIZUMI.
I MEAN,
THAT'S
KINDA
FUNNY!

THOSE
WERE,
SUPPOSEDLY,
HIS EXACT
WORDS.







DON'T YOU WANT
TO WALK AROUND
HOLDING HANDS
AND KISSING EACH
OTHER AND STUFF
LIKE THAT?



NO...!

NOT
REALLY...



UH...
HOW
COME
...?



BUT THEN...
HOW COME
YOU WANT
TO BE HIS
GIRLFRIEND,
SENPAI?

YOU
GUYS
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?!

OH, OH,
HOW
SWEET-
EEET!



RISA'S IDEA OF
HAPPINESS IS TO
SIT AROUND WITH
ÔTANI GOING,
"OOOOH, UMIBÔZU,
WOWWWW!"



OH,
FORGET
IT, SEIKO.

I SWEAR.
EVERYBODY
IS MAKING
ME REALLY
MAD.
I MEAN,
GOSH.



1

Hello! Nakahara here.
We're up to Volume 6.
Now, This is turning
into a very long
series...

So far, my series
have always been like
the Hanshin Tigers,
running out of steam
very fast indeed, but
this time, I seem to
be going after my
first league title ever.
hahahahaha

I hope that, like true
Hanshin Tiger fans,
you'll continue to give
me your steadfast,
lukewarm support.

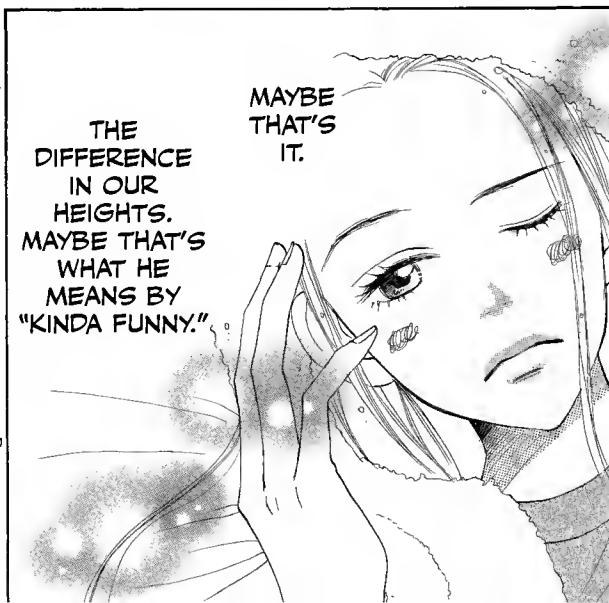
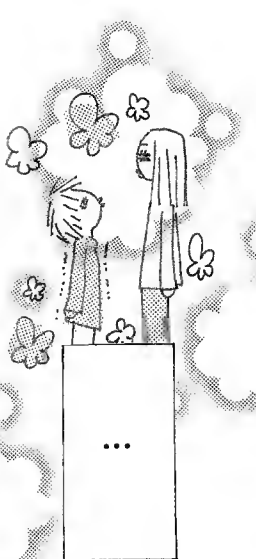


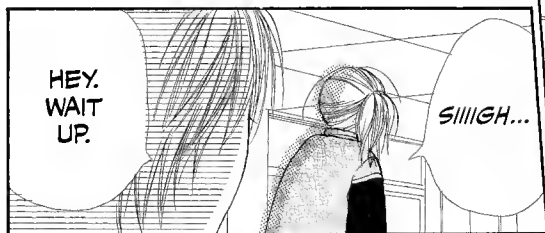
Balloons

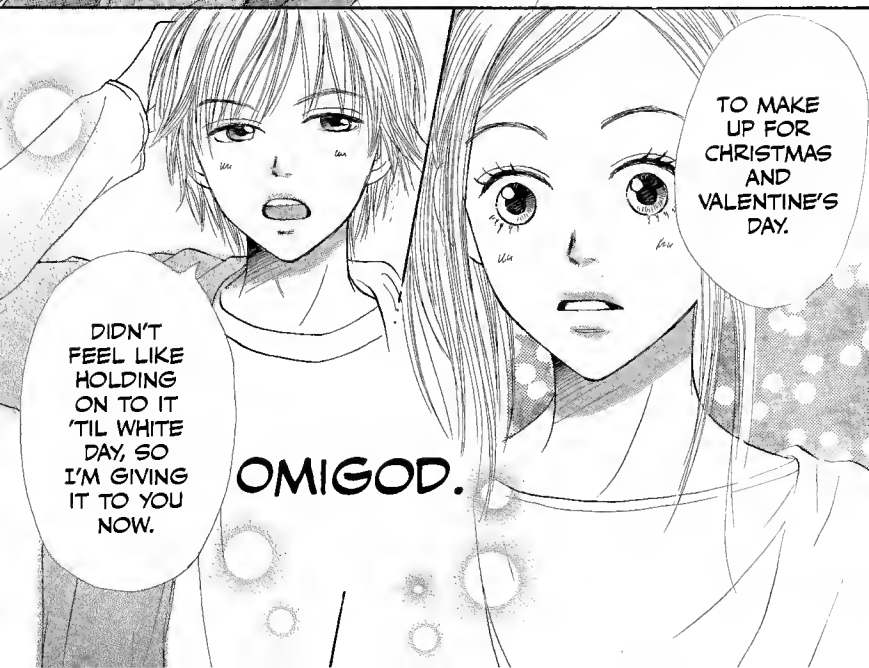
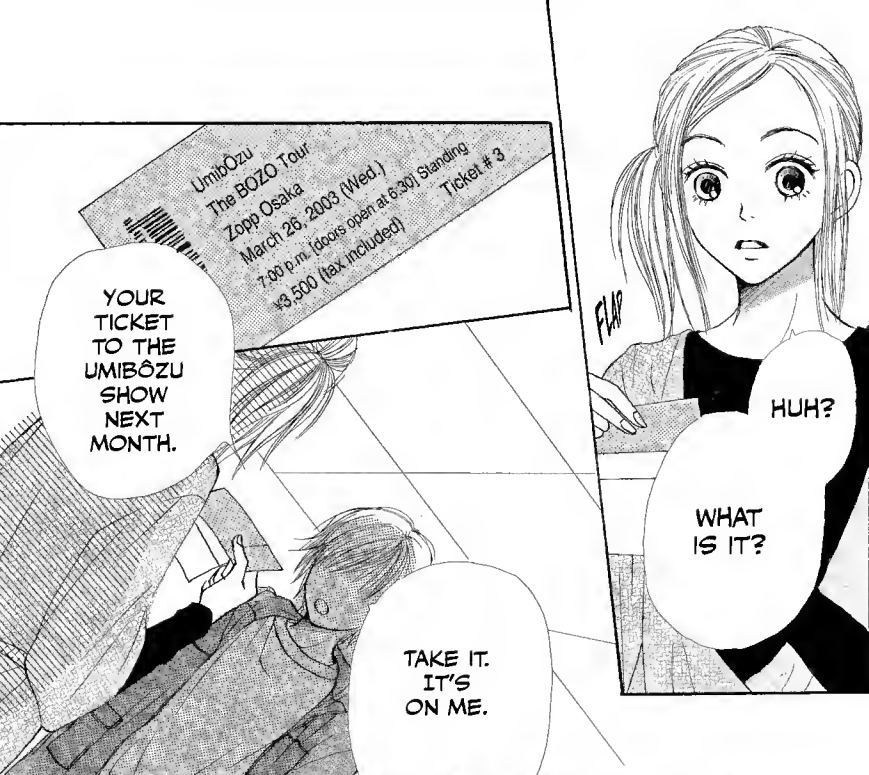
Who would ever
believe a professional
manga artist drew
these balloons?!

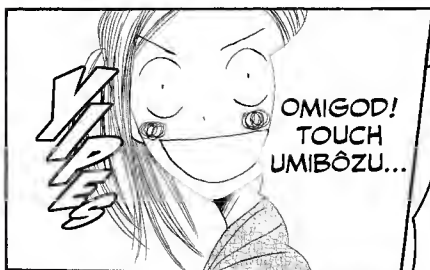
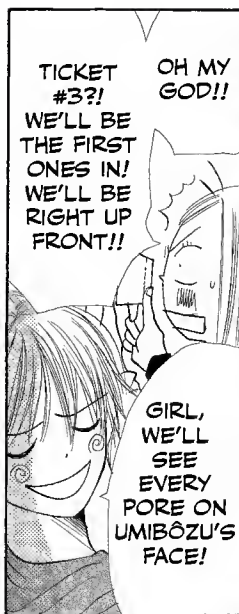
A friend of mine
managed to score
super-premium
tickets to a Hanshin-
Kyojin game when the
Tigers were on the
verge of winning the
pennant. I was invited
to go, but couldn't
because of work.
Bummer... I'm not a
big baseball fan at all,
but like all people from
Kansai, I'm always
rooting for those
Tigers.

Tiger 









I AM SO
STOKED.

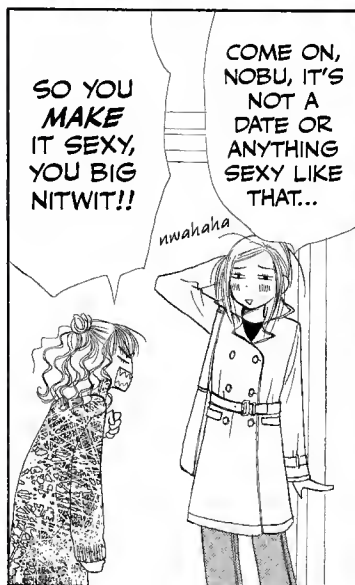
I NEVER
THOUGHT HE'D
ACTUALLY GET
ME ANYTHING,
NOT AFTER I
PRACTICALLY
FORCED THAT
VALENTINE DOWN
HIS THROAT.

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH.

I'M VERY
OBLIGED.

WHO
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU?







...SHE'S
RIGHT.

WILL
YOU
STOP
SAYING
"KISS
AND
STUFF"?!
LIKE,
WHAT
STUFF?!

COME
ON!
WHAT
DO WE
WANT?
TO KISS
AND
STUFF!!

OKAY,
LET'S
START
WITH
JUST
KISSING!



WHAT DID
YOU GIVE
HIM THAT
"FOR REAL"
VALENTINE
FOR, HUH?!
SO YOU CAN
STAY "JUST
FRIENDS"?!



WHAT DID
I GIVE
HIM THAT
"FOR REAL"
VALENTINE
FOR?



WANNA
WALK
HOME
TOGETHER?



I
WON'T
THROW
ANY-
THING
AT YOU!

BETTER
NOT.

YOU GOT
NOTHING
BETTER
TO DO?

I SWEAR,
I FIND YOU
LYING IN
WAIT FOR ME
LIKE THAT, IT'S
SCARY. LIKE
SOMETHING'S
GONNA HIT ME
IN THE HEAD.

I WANT
TO STOP
BEING A
"TOUGH
CALL"...

Final Exam Schedule

I never
heard
of this.

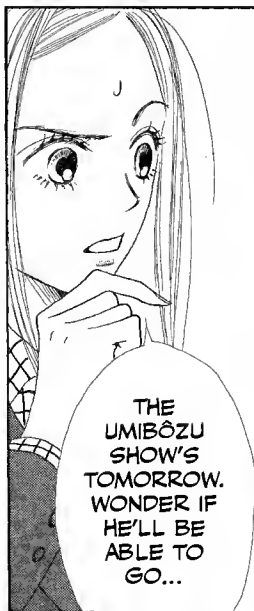
SO I AM
GOING
TO START
WORKING
HARDER
AT THIS!

25
Last day
of school!

26
Umibōzu
show!!

☆
Spring
vacation

WHAT?!



THE
UMIBÔZU
SHOW'S
TOMORROW.
WONDER IF
HE'LL BE
ABLE TO
GO...



ARE
YOU
SERI-
OUS?!

POOR
DUDE
CAME
DOWN
WITH A
FEVER.



ÔTANI'S
OUT
SICK
TODAY?!

UH-
HUH.



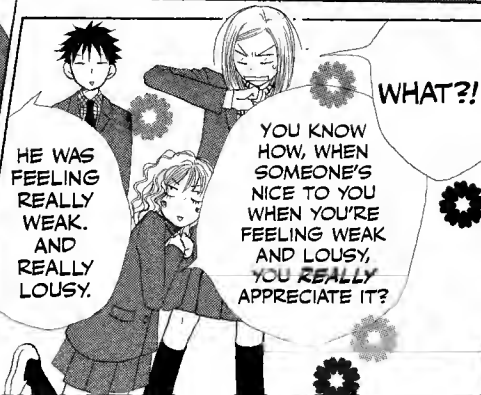
B-BUT...
I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
HIS
HOUSE
IS!

NOW'S
THE TIME
TO MAKE
YOUR MOVE,
GIRL! OR
YOUR BIG
UMIBÔZU
DATE IS IN
PERIL!

BABY'S
ONLY BEEN
THERE A
THOUSAND
TIMES.
HE'LL
TELL YOU!



WHY
DON'T
YOU GO
SEE HOW
HE'S
DOING?



HE WAS
FEELING
REALLY
WEAK.
AND
REALLY
LOUSY.

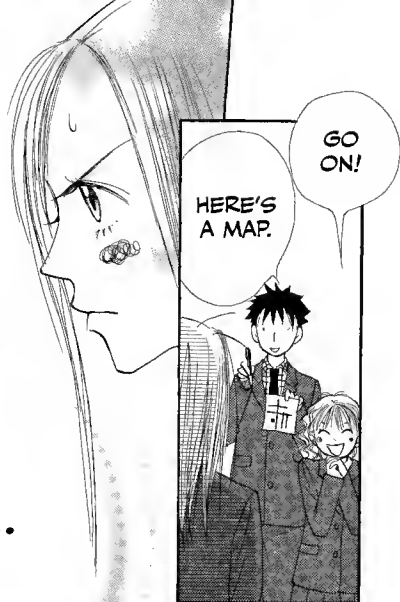
YOU KNOW
HOW, WHEN
SOMEONE'S
NICE TO YOU
WHEN YOU'RE
FEELING WEAK
AND LOUSY,
YOU *REALLY*
APPRECIATE IT?

WHAT?!



ALL RIGHT!
I'LL DO IT!
I'M GOING
OVER THERE
RIGHT NOW!

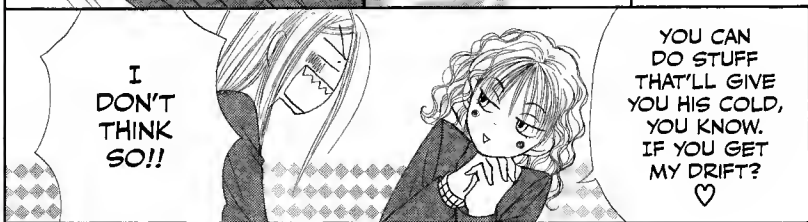
Here
we go!



HERE'S
A MAP.

GO
ON!

...



I
DON'T
THINK
SO!!

YOU CAN
DO STUFF
THAT'LL GIVE
YOU HIS COLD,
YOU KNOW.
IF YOU GET
MY DRIFT?
♥



...UH-
OH...

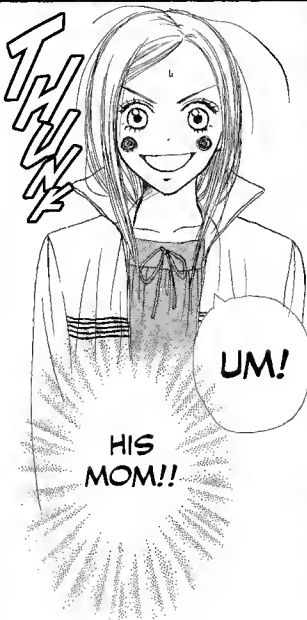
WHAT
DO I DO
IF HIS
MOM
ANSWERS
THE
DOOR?

I'M
GETTING
REALLY
NERVOUS
...



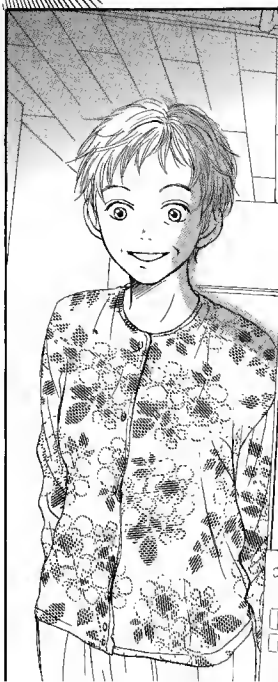
NO! I
GOTTA
GO
THROUGH
WITH
THIS!!

I AM
WOMAN,
HEAR ME
ROAR!



UM!

HIS
MOM!!

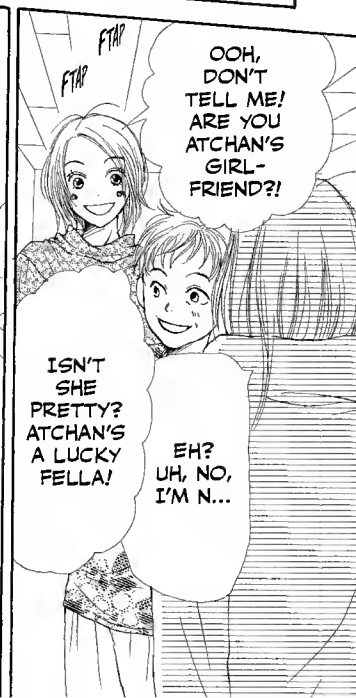
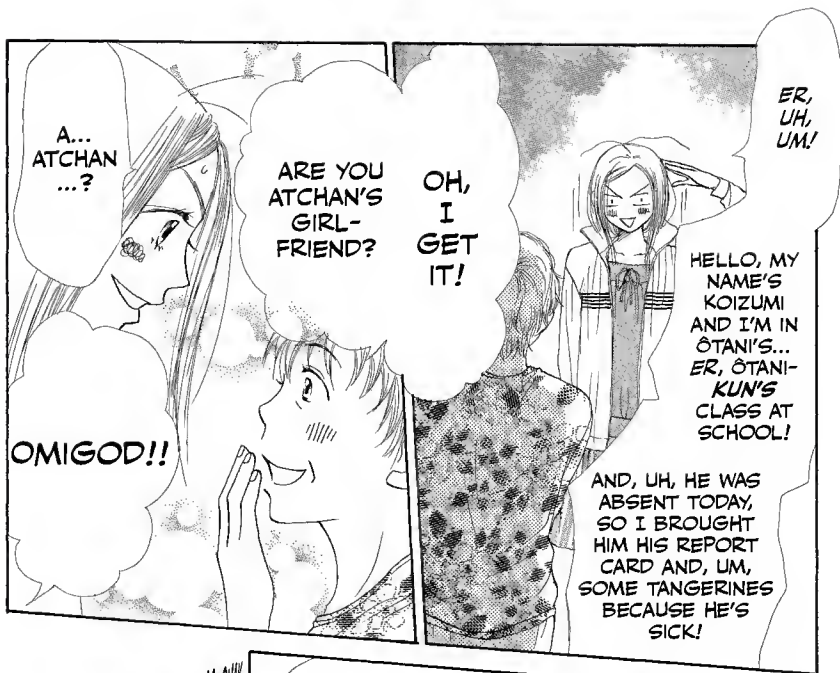


JUST A
MOMENT!

Ding
Dong

FTAP
FTAP

FTAP

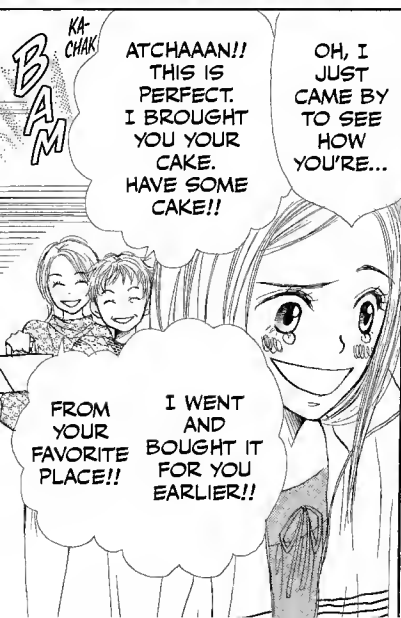




...SO, HOW
ARE WE
FEELING...



JEEZ,
WHAT'S
ALL THE
COMMO-
TION
ABOUT...



ATCHAAAN!!
THIS IS
PERFECT.
I BROUGHT
YOU YOUR
CAKE.
HAVE SOME
CAKE!!

OH, I
JUST
CAME BY
TO SEE
HOW
YOU'RE...

FROM
YOUR
FAVORITE
PLACE!!

I WENT
AND
BOUGHT IT
FOR YOU
EARLIER!!

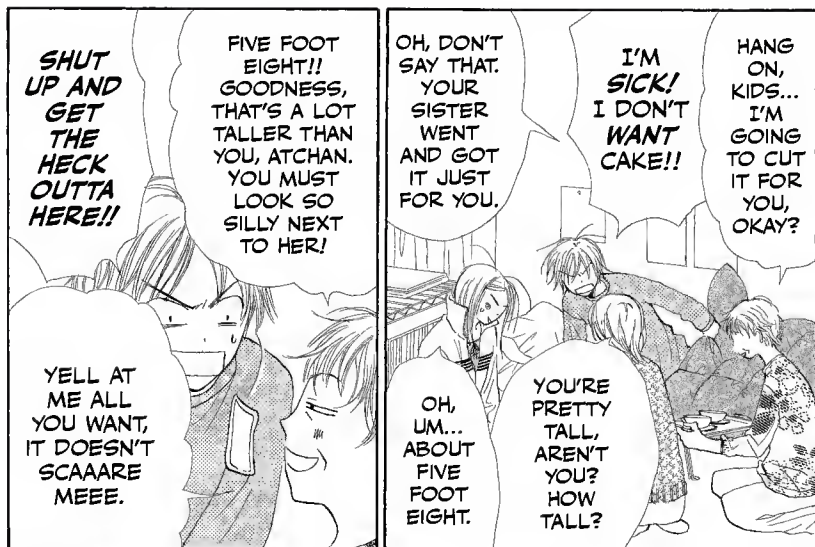


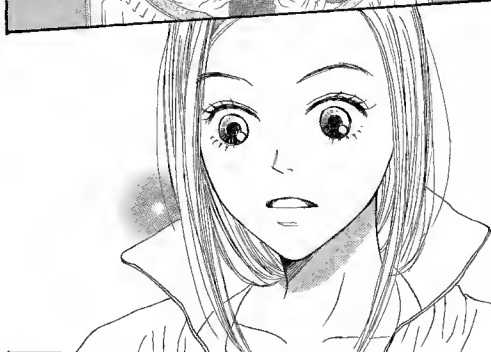
I'M
GONNA
DIE...

WHAT
THE HECK
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?!



...ATCHAN?





...YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THAT?
I THOUGHT
I WAS THE
MAN YOU
LOVE.

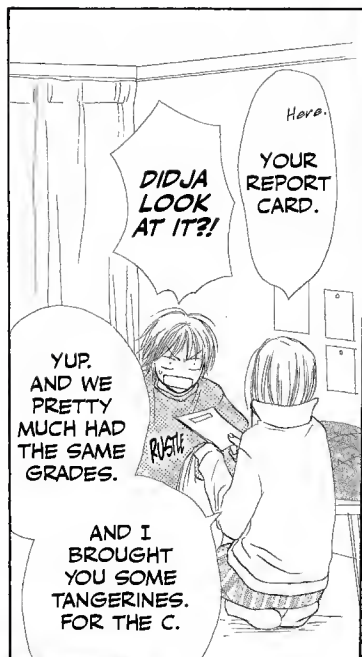


I
AM SO
TOTALLY
HOPE-
LESS...



OMIGOD!
IT'S
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
TODAY?!

HUH?
YEAH.

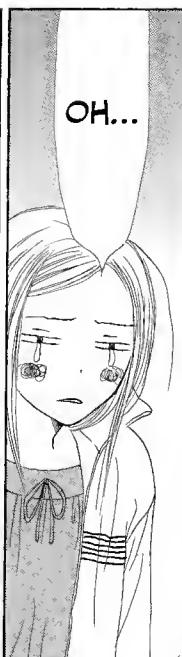


**DIDJA
LOOK
AT IT?!**

Here.
**YOUR
REPORT
CARD.**

**YUP.
AND WE
PRETTY
MUCH HAD
THE SAME
GRADES.**

**AND I
BROUGHT
YOU SOME
TANGERINES.
FOR THE C.**



OH...



SO?

**WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE?**

**HE
REALLY
DOES
SEEM
WEAK.**

Hey...
**I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
TOMOR-
ROW.**

**YOU
MEAN
THE
SHOW?**

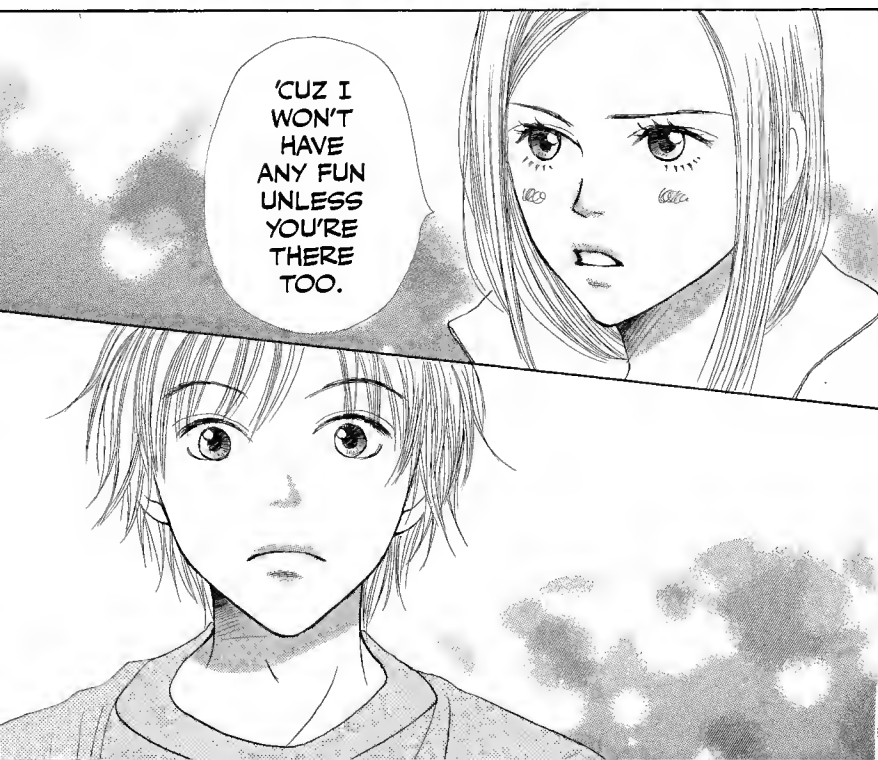
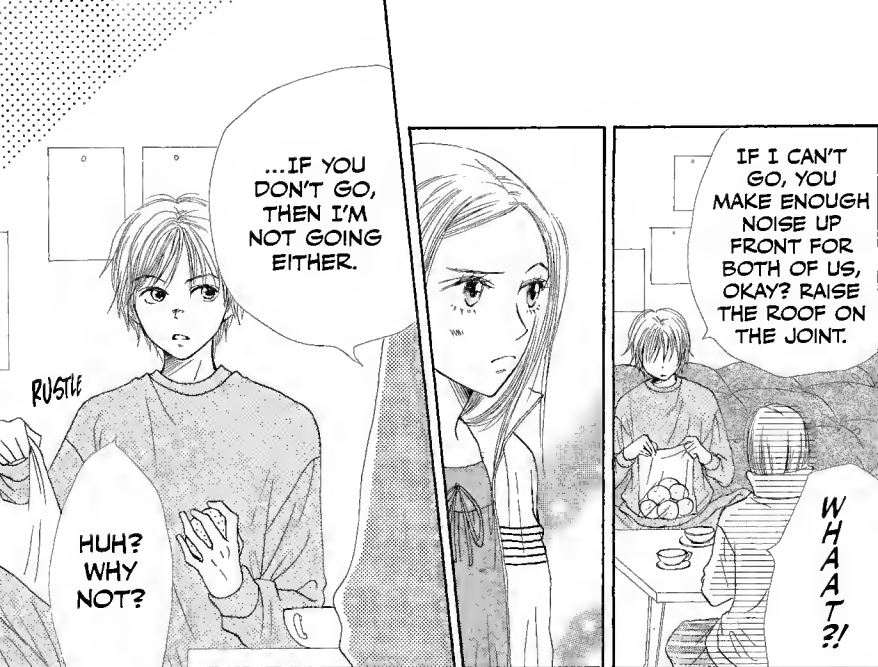


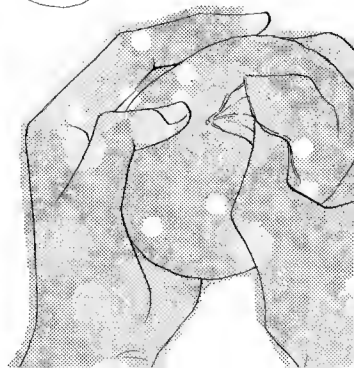
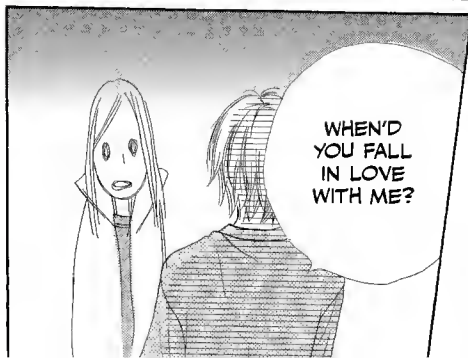
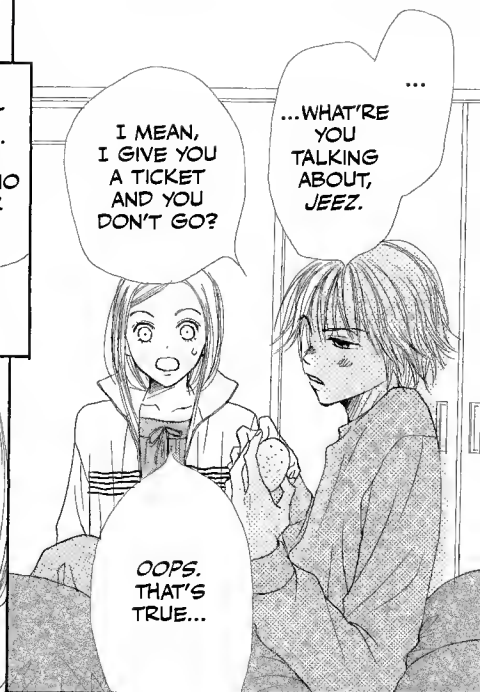
HMM.



...

THANKS.







OKAY,
FINE! THE
ANSWER
IS, I
DON'T
KNOW!

WELL,
IT'S WEIRD.
AFTER
CALLING ME
"SHRIMP"
AND "MIDGET"
AND STUFF
ALL THE TIME.



URGH!

WHY
DO YOU
KEEP
ASKING
ME
STUFF
LIKE
THAT?!

YOU SAID
TO LET
YOU KNOW
WHAT I'M
THINKING,
NO HOLDS
BARRED!

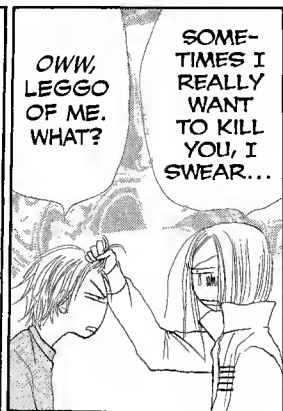


YOU
REALLY
WANT
A
SHRIMP
LIKE
ME AS YOUR
BOYFRIEND?



YOU
DON'T
WANT
A
GIANT
LIKE ME
AS YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND,
RIGHT?!

OH,
FINE!



OWW,
LEGGO
OF ME.
WHAT?

SOME-
TIMES I
REALLY
WANT
TO KILL
YOU, I
SWEAR...



I GUESS
MAYBE IT
DOES, A
LITTLE.

...WELL,
MAYBE
IT
DOES.



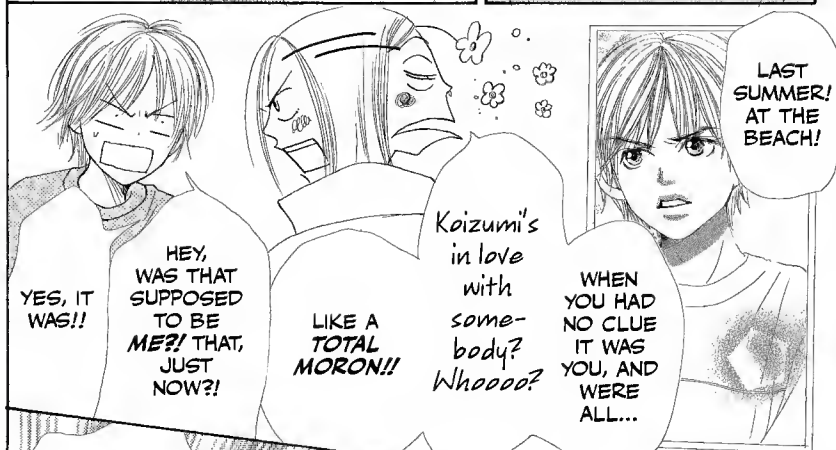
HEY,
YOUR
HEIGHT'S
GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT...



HUH?
WHO,
ME?
WHEN'D
I SAY
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT?

...GREAT.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO TOLD
ME TO STOP
OBSESSING
ABOUT MY
HEIGHT AND
GO FOR IT.



YES, IT
WAS!!

HEY,
WAS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO BE
ME?! THAT,
JUST
NOW?!

LIKE A
**TOTAL
MORON!!**

Kaizumi's
in love
with
some-
body?
Whoooo?

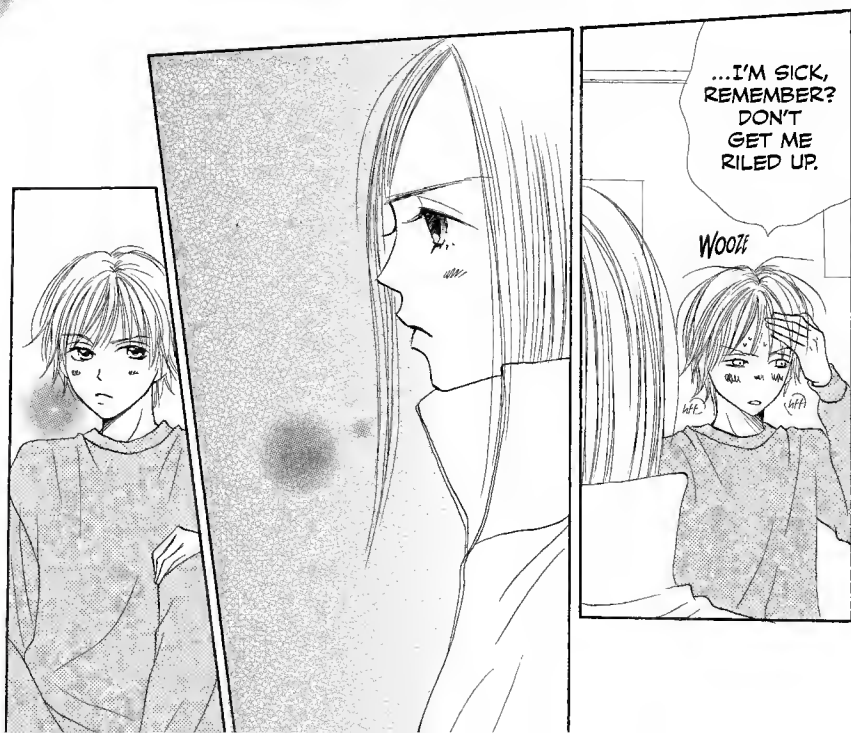
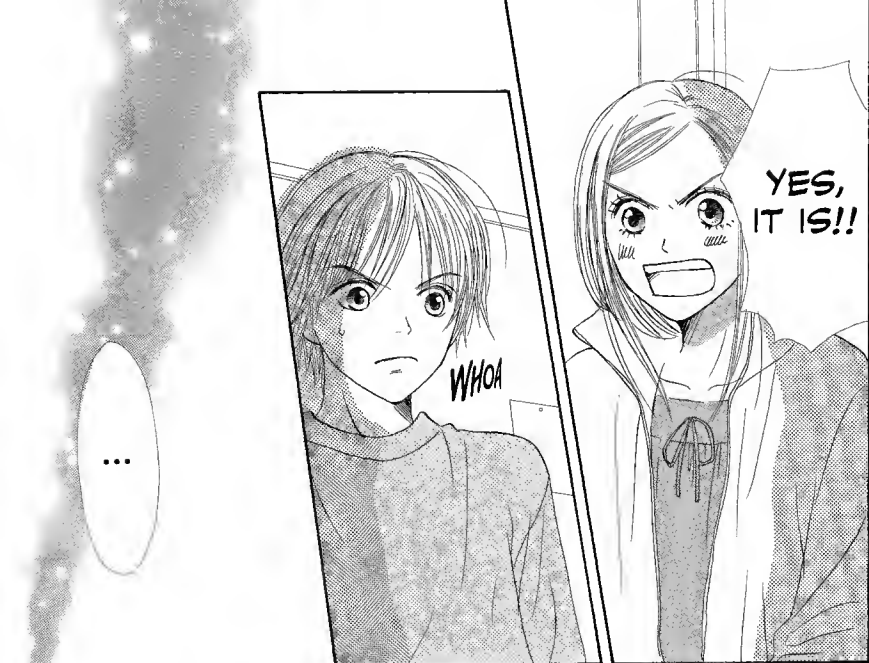
WHEN
YOU HAD
NO CLUE
IT WAS
YOU, AND
WERE
ALL...

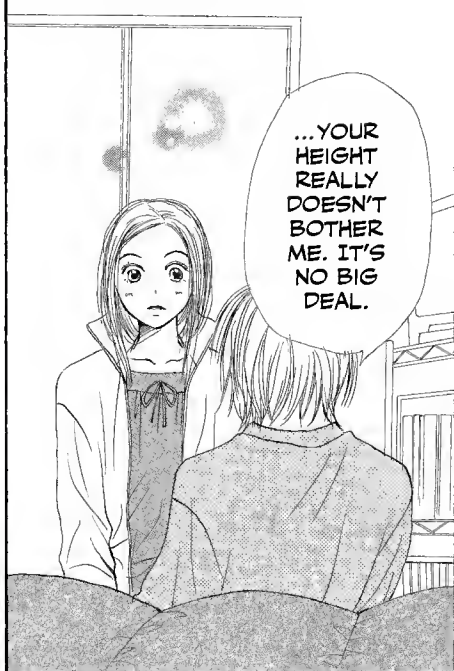
LAST
SUMMER!
AT THE
BEACH!

THAT
THE WAY
YOU TALK
TO THE
MAN YOU
LOVE?!

YES
YOU
DID
SO!

WELL,
I NEVER
LOOKED
THAT BUTT-
UGLY!





I DON'T
KNOW,
THOUGH. BE
KINDA CREEPY
IF YOU GOT
ALL SWEET
AND QUIET.

CREEPY?!
WHADDAYA
MEAN,
CREEPY?!



YEAH.

THE MAIN
PROBLEM
IS YOU...?

...HUH?



THAT'S A
PRETTY
BIG
PROBLEM.

...AND
I'M NOT
FEELING
ANY URGE
TO MAKE
ANY KINDA
MOVE
ON YOU.

I MEAN,
LOOK
AT US.
WE'RE ALL
ALONE
IN MY BED-
ROOM...

IN OTHER
WORDS,
HE ISN'T
ATTRACTED
TO ME.
NOT
EVEN THE
TINIEST
LITTLE
BIT.

...OHHH.
SO
THAT'S
WHAT HE
MEANT.

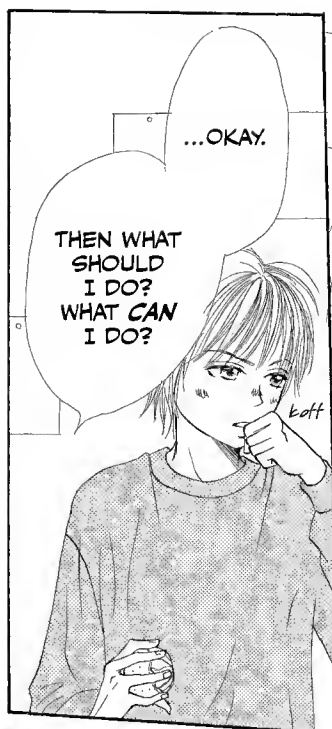
LIKE, IF WE
GO OUT,
WE KISS AND
STUFF, RIGHT?!
I MEAN,
THAT'S KINDA
FUNNY!



I DIDN'T
TELL ÔTANI
I LOVE HIM
BECAUSE
I WANT TO
MAKE OUT
WITH HIM.

AND I WANT
TO BE WITH
HIM ALL THE
TIME, EVEN
IF WE'RE
JUST GOOF-
ING AROUND
AND HANGING
OUT LIKE WE
ALWAYS ARE.

I JUST
LOVE
HIM,
THAT'S
ALL.



...OKAY.

THEN WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?
WHAT *CAN*
I DO?

koff

BUT I
GUESS
THAT ISN'T
ENOUGH.
THAT
DOESN'T
REALLY
COUNT AS
"GOING
OUT."



sniff

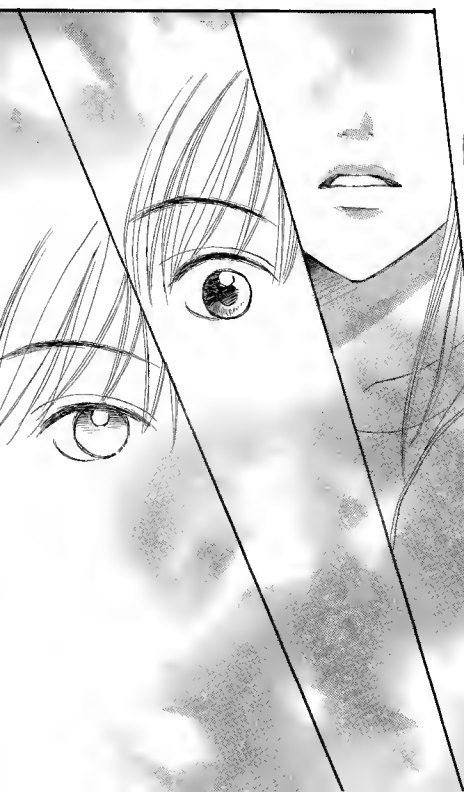
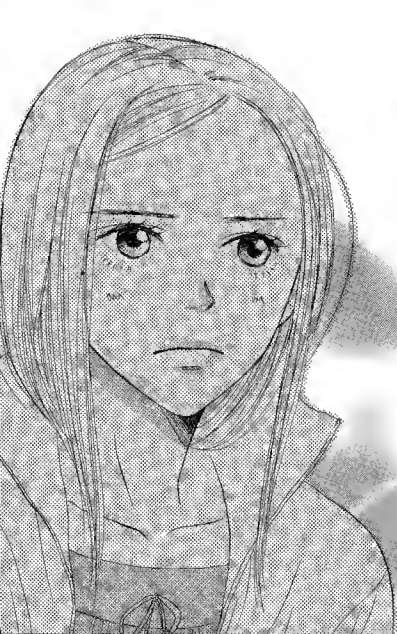


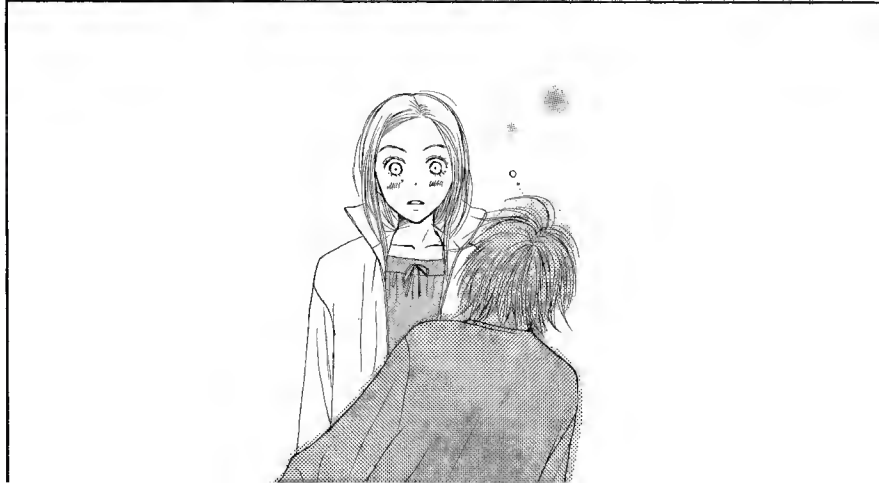
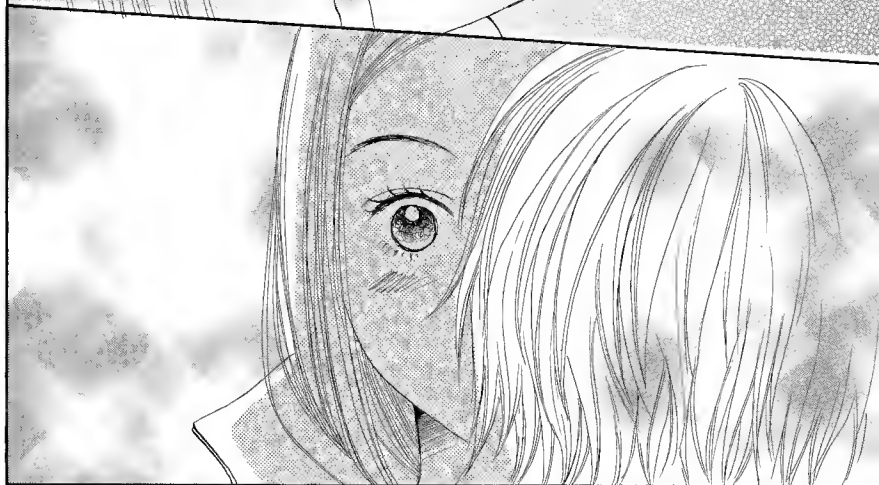
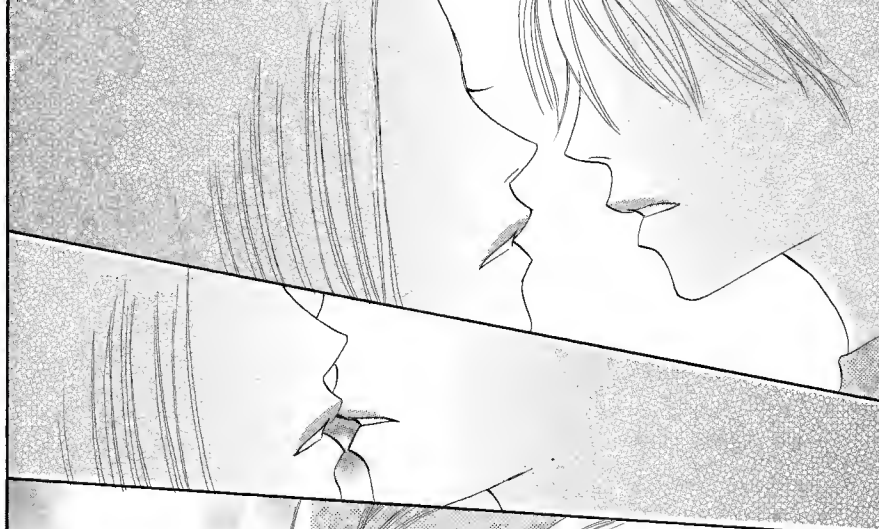
PLOMP

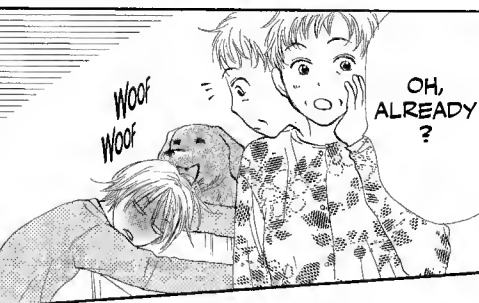


I
DON'T...

...ATTRACT
YOU AT
ALL?







HE
JUST...

HE...

GOOD-
NESS,
YOU'VE
GOT A
RAGING
FEVER
AGAIN!

A
T
C
H
A
N
!!

....KISSED
ME!!

WE'RE
GOING
TO THE
UMIBÔZU
SHOW
TOMORROW
TOO.

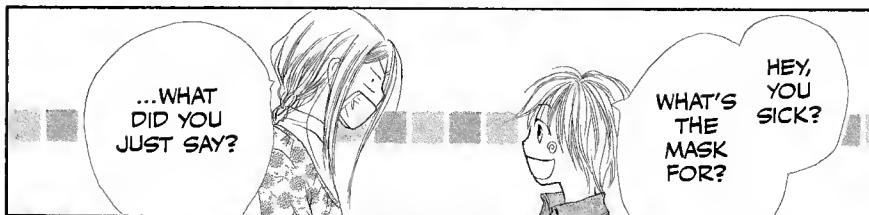
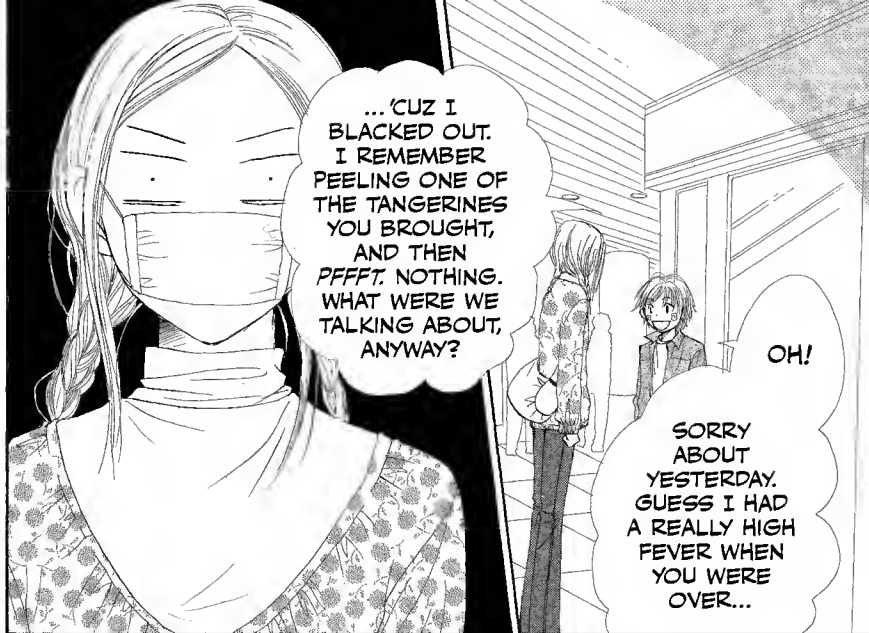
OMI-
GOD.



WHAT DO
I DO?!
WHAT DO
I SAY
WHEN I
SEE HIM?!

GUESS
WHAT?
I'M
FINE.
I FEEL
GREAT!

HEYYYY!
HOW'S IT
GOIN'?



HE
DOESN'T
REMEM-
BER?

C'MON,
LET'S GET
A BITE
TO EAT
BEFORE
THE
SHOW!

MAN,
WHAT A
GORGEOUS
DAY,
THOUGH,
HUH? I'M
SO GLAD
I'M OVER
MY COLD!

HE
REMEM-
BERS
NOTHING?

NOTHING?

HEH?!

SCREW
YOU,
SHRIMP!!

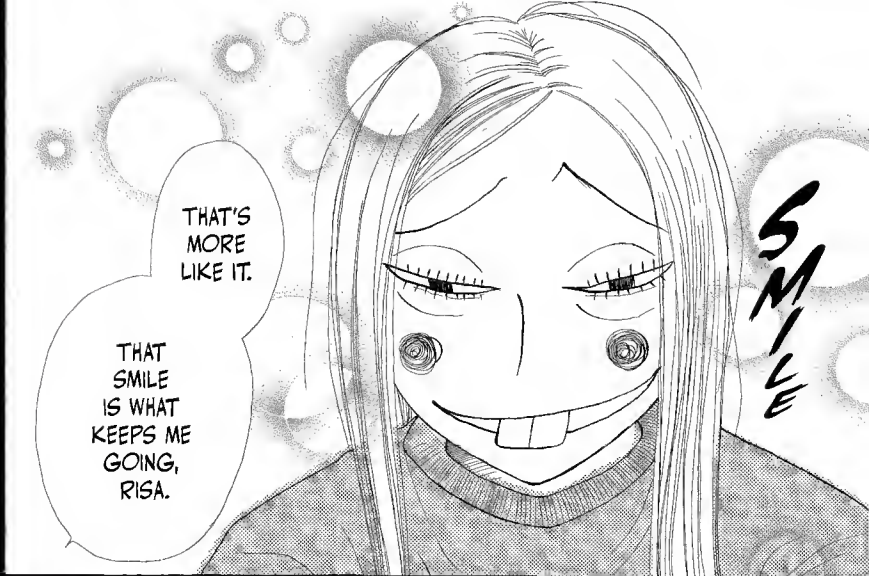
A NEW
SCHOOL
YEAR'S
ABOUT
TO
START.

IT'S
SPRING
AGAIN.





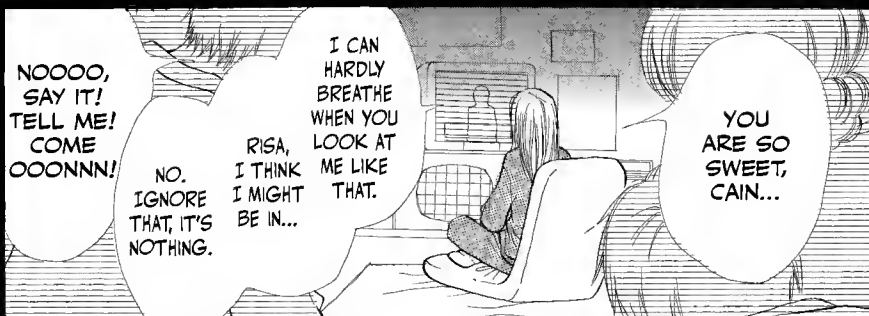
CHAPTER 22



THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT.

THAT
SMILE
IS WHAT
KEEPS ME
GOING,
RISA.

SMILE



NOOOO,
SAY IT!
TELL ME!
COME
OOOONNN!

NO.
IGNORE
THAT, IT'S
NOTHING.

RISA,
I THINK
I MIGHT
BE IN...

I CAN
HARDLY
BREATHE
WHEN YOU
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT.

YOU
ARE SO
SWEET,
CAIN...



IF
YOU
WANT
TO
KNOW...



RISA...

WHO'S
THIS
CAIN
PERSON
SHE'S
TALKING
TO?

I
THINK
MY
SISTER
IS SERI-
OUSLY
LOSING
IT.



I
REMEMBER
PEELING A
TANGERINE,
AND THEN
PFFFT.
NOTHING.

AND
THAT
DOPE...

THAT
**STUPID
DOPE...**

...THAT
WAS MY
FIRST
KISS.
EVER.

WHAT
WERE WE
TALKING
ABOUT,
ANYWAY?

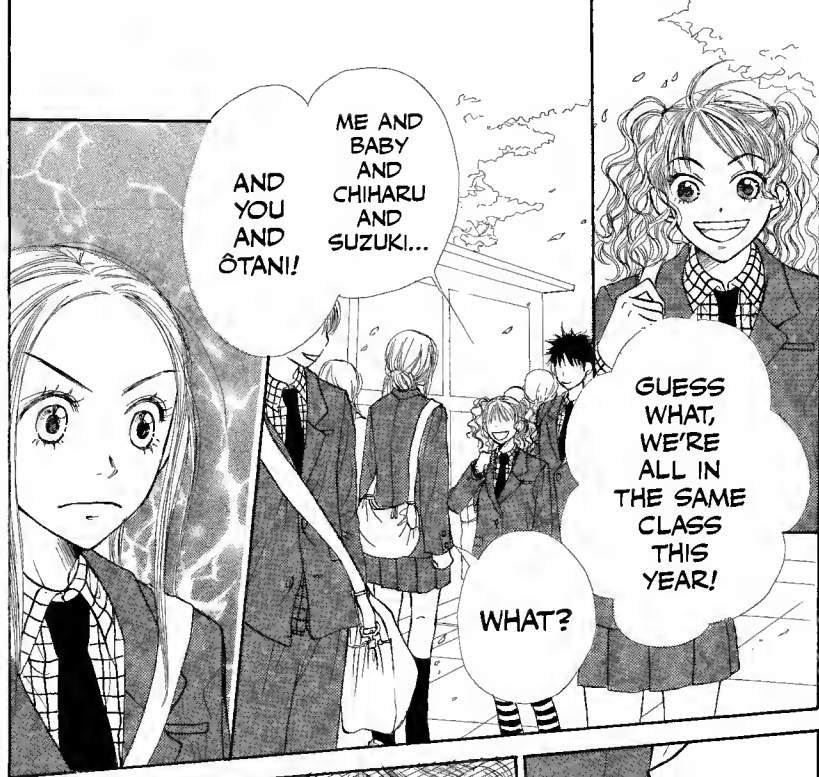


I AM NOT
LETTING
HIM GET
AWAY WITH
THAT!!

HE
DOESN'T
REMEM-
BER?
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
HE
DOESN'T
REMEM-
BER?



R-
I-
S-
A-
A-
!!



AND YOU
AND
ÔTANI!

ME AND
BABY
AND
CHIHARU
AND
SUZUKI...

GUESS
WHAT,
WE'RE
ALL IN
THE SAME
CLASS
THIS
YEAR!

WHAT?



WONDERFUL.
THAT'S
TERRIFIC.
WE GET TO
BE CALLED
ALL HANSHIN-
KYOJIN TO
THE BITTER
END. THANKS
A LOT.

JEEZ,
FOR
REAL?!

MAN, WE
GOTTA BE
TOGETHER
FOR THE
THIRD YEAR
IN A ROW?



FIRST
DAY OF
SCHOOL,
AND
YOU'RE
ALREADY
PISSED
OFF AT
ME?!
WHAT
FOR?!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR?!

OWWAAA!

YOU
STOLE
THE
WORDS
RIGHT
OUTTA
MY
MOUTH,
MIDGET!



SO
WHAT
THE
HECK
IS IT?

... YOU
REALLY
DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING?

UMIBÔZU
DO
SOME-
THING
TO YOU?

I SWEAR,
YOU'VE
BEEN IN
A SUPER-
CRAPPY
MOOD
SINCE
THAT
UMIBÔZU
SHOW.

UMIBÔZU
WAS
TOTALLY
AWESOME
THAT DAY,
AS ALWAYS.



HUNH?
WHAT
THE
HECK
DID
I DO?

WHY
DON'T
YOU ASK
**YOUR-
SELF**
THAT,
SCUMP?

I'M
GONNA
GO FIND
CHIHARU,
OKAY?

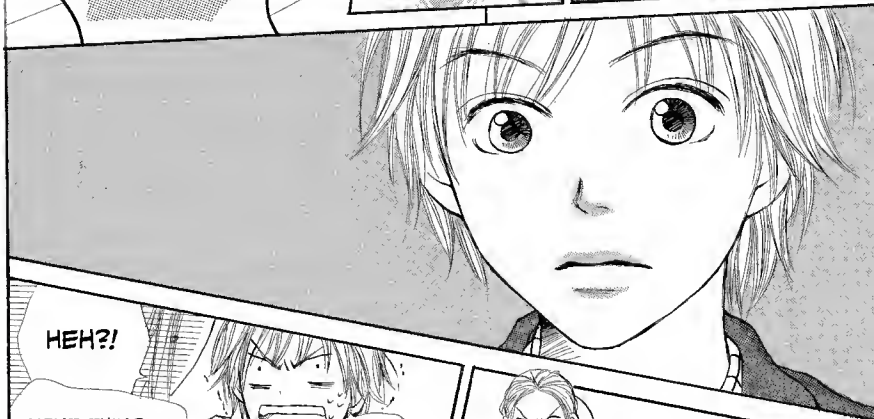


THAT WAS
MY FIRST
KISS, YOU
LITTLE
SWINE!!

... YOU
LITTLE
...

WHAT?
WHEN?

...



HEH?!

NEXT THING
I KNOW,
YOU'LL
BE SAYING
I PROPOSED
TO YOU,
AND SHOW
UP WAVING
WEDDING
INVITATIONS
AROUND OR
SOMETHING!!

KOIZUMI,
YOU'RE
IMAGINING
THINGS!!

I
DON'T
NEED
ONE!!

What
was the
number
for an
ambulance?
119?

Oh
god...

SHANE
SHANE

So...guess what?
They're going to put out
a Love★Com drama CD.
Ta-da! Heh heh heh heh.

There must be at least
some of you asking, what
does that mean? Well,
it's a CD with a special
Love★Com episode on it.
With voice actors
giving life to all the
characters. Oooh! ☆ ☆

As I write this, it's still
in the planning stages.
I'd like to be involved as
much as I can, to help
make it a really fun CD.

Right now I'm coming
up with some new story
lines for it.

Hope you'll be interested...

I'm the type of person
who, once she gets into
something, gets into it all
the way, i.e. a pretty big
otaku, so I happen to own
a lot of these drama CDs.
But I listen to them
because I love the
manga, so, well, sorry to
say this, but I was never
very up on the voice
actors in them. Was! Ulp!!
Mommy, she switched to
past tense in the middle
of the sentence!!
Now I kinda know who
all the different voice
actors are. heh heh heh





THE
QUESTION
IS, WAS HE
CONSCIOUS
WHEN HE
KISSED ME,
OR NOT?

I KNOW
HE WAS
SICK AND
HAD A
REALLY
HIGH
FEVER.

blah

HEY...

...NOTHING.

blah

WHAT'RE
YOU
SO MAD
AT HIM
ABOUT?

...THE
WHOLE
THING WAS
JUST AN
ACCIDENT.

WELL, NO,
IT ISN'T.
'CUZ IF HE
DOESN'T
REMEMBER
IT HAPPEN-
ING, THEN
EITHER
WAY...

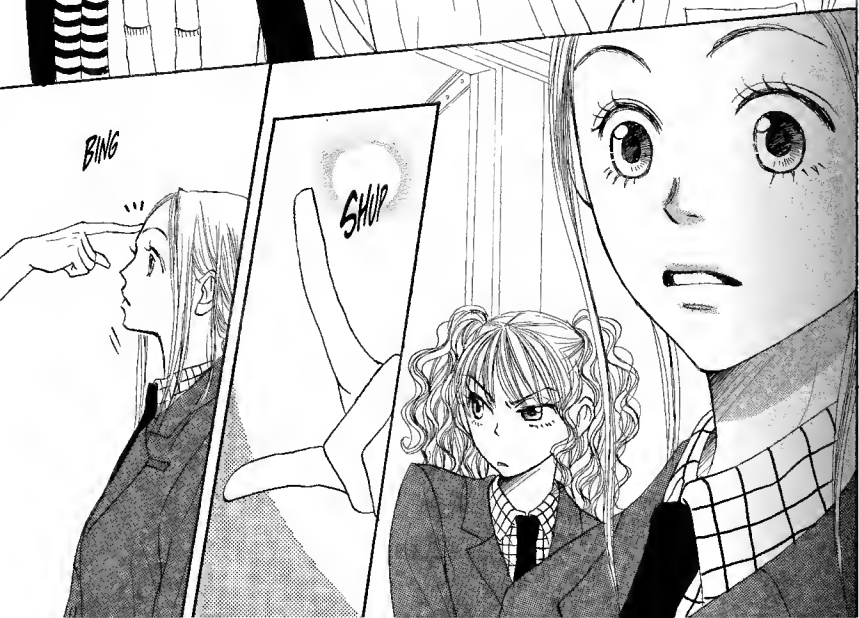
blah

WHUMP

BECAUSE I
DON'T HAVE
AN OUNCE OF
SEX APPEAL
AND HE ISN'T
ATTRACTED
TO ME THE
TINIEST BIT!!

SOMETHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN YOU
TWO WHEN YOU
WENT OVER TO
HIS HOUSE, I
JUST KNOW IT.

**NOTHING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN US,
AS FAR
AS HE'S
CONCERNED.
NOTHING!!**





EH...?!

WHAT'RE
YOU SO
UPSET
ABOUT?

YOU
FURROW
YOUR BROW
LIKE THAT,
IT CASTS
A SHADOW
OVER YOUR
PRETTY
FACE.



I've
felt it
before.

This
creepy
feeling
I'm
getting...

...HE'S...



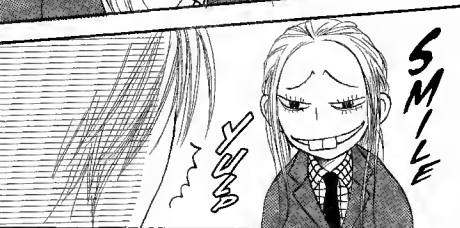
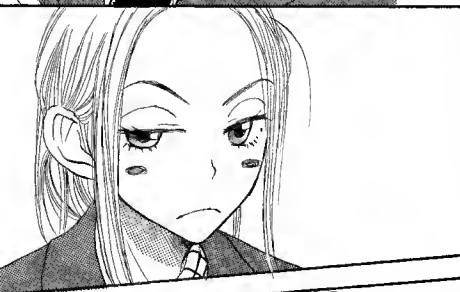
I KNOW
YOU'VE
GOT A
BEAUTI-
FUL
SMILE.

LET'S
SEE
IT!

Where
was
it...?

OH!

OKAY!





CAIN
SAID I'M
PRETTY
AND HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL
SMILE, SO
THERE!!



PRETTY?
LIKE,
IN WHAT
WAY?
YOU
LOOK
MENTAL.

OOPS,
DON'T
WANT TO
CAST A
SHADOW
ON MY
PRETTY
FACE.

*Gotta
smile!*

*hoo
hoo
hoo*



WHY?!
IS IT
ME?! IS
THIS MY
FAULT?!

IN
YOUR
SEATS-

I
DON'T
KNOW.

*Don't
ask
me.*



OH.

GUESS
SHE'S
RETREAT-
ING INTO
A FANTASY
WORLD.

Koizumi's
really lost it.
She's talking
about that Cain
character like
he actually
exists...

*And is going
out with
her...*

*Oh
my
god...*





I WAS
STARTING
TO THINK
YOU'D
FORGOTTEN
I WAS
THERE!

COME
ON IN,
MR.
MAITAKE.

KREE

ha
ha
ha
Sorry
about
that!

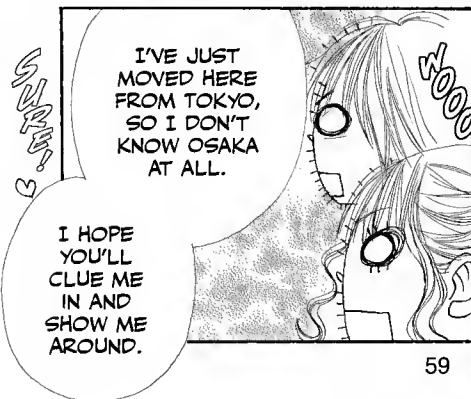
K
L
A
T
T
E
R

C
A
I
N
!!

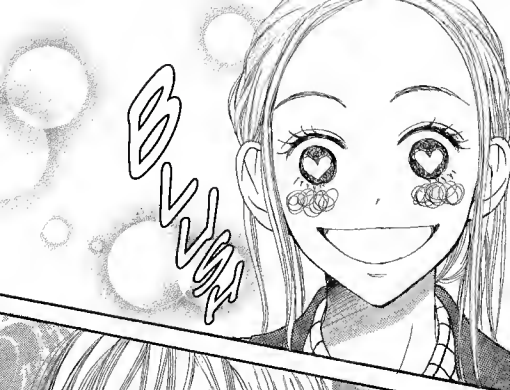
OHH!

JUST GET
A **GRIP**,
KOIZUMI!
CAIN IS 2D,
OKAY?! HE
DOES NOT
EXIST IN...

HEY!







ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN.
THAT IS
REALLY
CUTE!



DON'T
TELL ME
YOU PLAN
TO FORGET
ÔTANI AND
SWITCH
OVER TO
THAT CHEESY
MIGHTY?



OMIGOD,
HE IS
SOOOOO
FINE!
♡

THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME I
WAS GLAD
WE'RE ALL
HANSHIN-
KYOJIN.

He said it
was cute!
♡

HEY,
RISA.



YEAH. THE
PRINCIPAL
INTRODUCED
HIM AT
THE START-
OF-TERM
CEREMONY.
HELLO?

I GUESS
I WASN'T
PAYING
ANY
ATTEN-
TION.

HE
DID?

SO
HE'S A
TEACHER.



OVER
MY DEAD
BODY,
RISA!!
THE GUY IS
SERIOUSLY
CHEESY!!

WISH
I COULD
JUST SWITCH
OVER TO HIM,
THOUGH.
WOULD MAKE
MY LIFE A
LOT EASIER.

HUH?

NO, OF
COURSE
NOT.

MIGHTY'S LIKE
CAIN. HE'S LIKE
THIS LUSH OASIS
IN THE PARCHED
DESERT OF MY
LIFE, WHERE
I CAN SEEK
SHELTER FROM
HARSH REALITY
FOR A MOMENT.



I WISH
LIFE WAS
LIKE A
GAME.
WHEN YOU
MESS UP,
YOU JUST
START OVER
AGAIN...

HOW LONG
AM I GOING
TO HAVE MY
WHOLE LIFE
RULED BY
ÔTANI LIKE
THIS?

Byebee,
Ôtani,
we're
going!

HUH?

SORRY,
BUT THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE A
HALLMARK
CARD FROM
A TOO-
SCARED-
TO-FACE-
REAL-LIFE
GAMER.

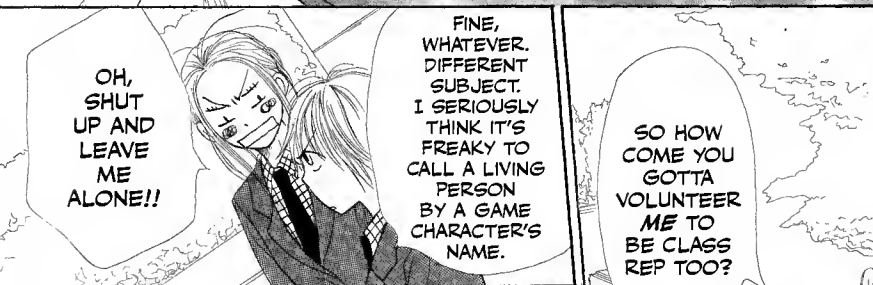
AND
MAKING
THAT FACE
DOES NOT
MAKE
YOU ANY
CUTER!



...AND
ON THIS
CRUSH
THAT'S
LIKE A
LONG
DARK
TUNNEL
WITH NO
LIGHT AT
THE END
OF IT?

...ON
THAT
STUPID
IDIOT...

DO I
REALLY
WANT TO
KEEP
WASTING
THE
SPRINGTIME
OF MY
LIFE...



OH,
SHUT
UP AND
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!!

FINE,
WHATEVER.
DIFFERENT
SUBJECT.
I SERIOUSLY
THINK IT'S
FREAKY TO
CALL A LIVING
PERSON
BY A GAME
CHARACTER'S
NAME.

SO HOW
COME YOU
GOTTA
VOLUNTEER
ME TO
BE CLASS
REP TOO?



...HEY.

DID
I DO
SOME-
THING?

PAY-
BACK
FOR
LAST
YEAR.
PLUS
YOU'RE
USED
TO IT.



WHAT IS IT?! IS IT THAT TIME YOU CAME OVER?

COME ON, JUST TELL ME!

Well, if you don't remember, I suppose it wasn't anything worth remembering.

OH-



YOU WERE ALL PISSED OFF AT ME THIS MORNING ABOUT REMEMBERING SOMETHING, OR NOT REMEMBERING...

HUH?



OH!
THAT'S RIGHT, I TOTALLY FORGOT.

JUST FORGET IT, OKAY?!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL!



'CUZ I KNEW YOU'D SEE MINE LATER AND MAKE A BIG FUSS ABOUT WANTING ONE.

WELL, I STUCK AROUND TO BUY STUFF AND GOT YOU SOMETHING TOO.

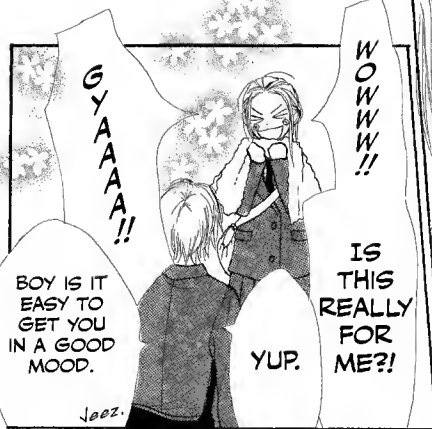
YOU KNOW HOW YOU TOOK OFF STRAIGHT AFTER THE UMIBÔZU SHOW ENDED?

RUSTLE



THIS IS FOR YOU.

WHAT IS IT?



BOY IS IT
EASY TO
GET YOU
IN A GOOD
MOOD.

GYAAA!!

YUP.

IS THIS
REALLY
FOR ME?!

WOWWW!!

Jeez.



OMIGOD!!

THIS
IS SO
COOL!!

This
towel!!

COOL,
HUH?!



URRGH
...

OKAY,
SO
GIVE IT
BACK.

KWw
KWw
KWw

...THIS
MEANS I
FORGIVE
YOU...

IF YOU
THINK...

IF...

WOW



YOU
REALLY
ARE
SIMPLE, I
SWEAR.

HMM.

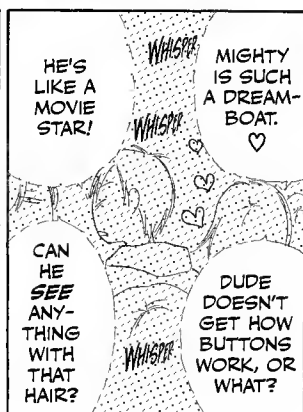
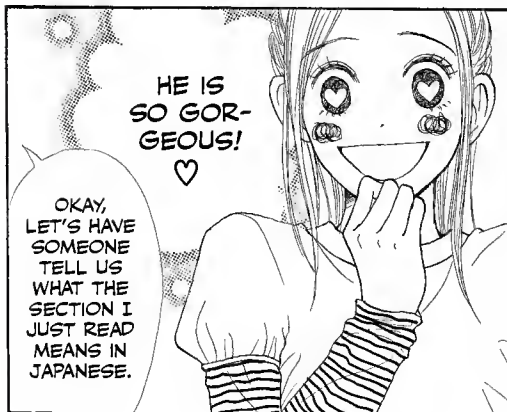
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH...

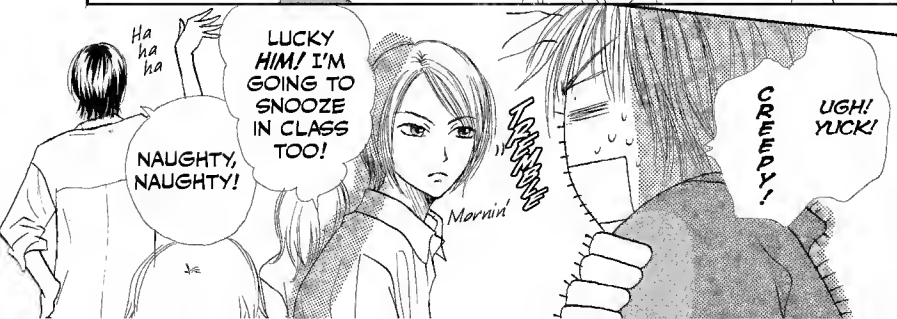
I'M
KEEP-
ING
IT...

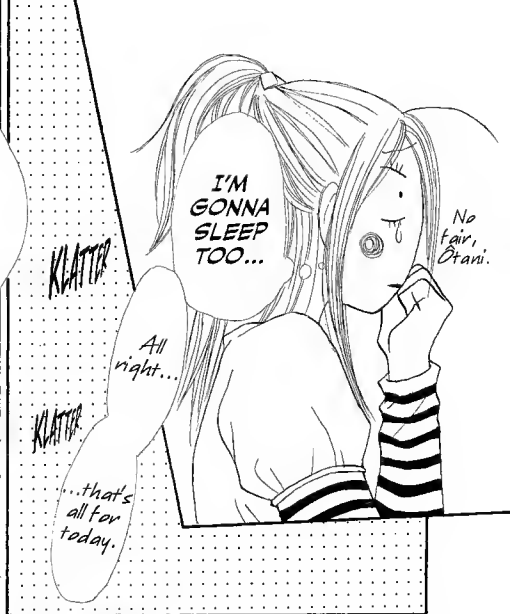
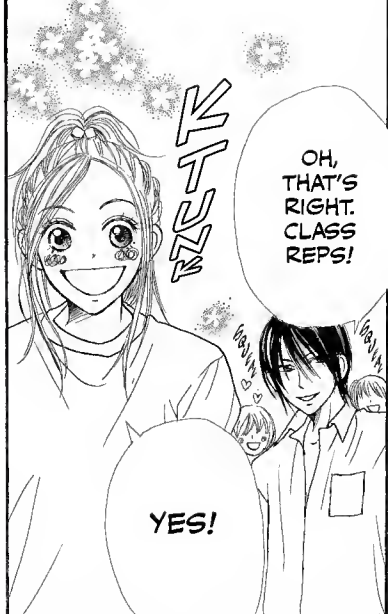


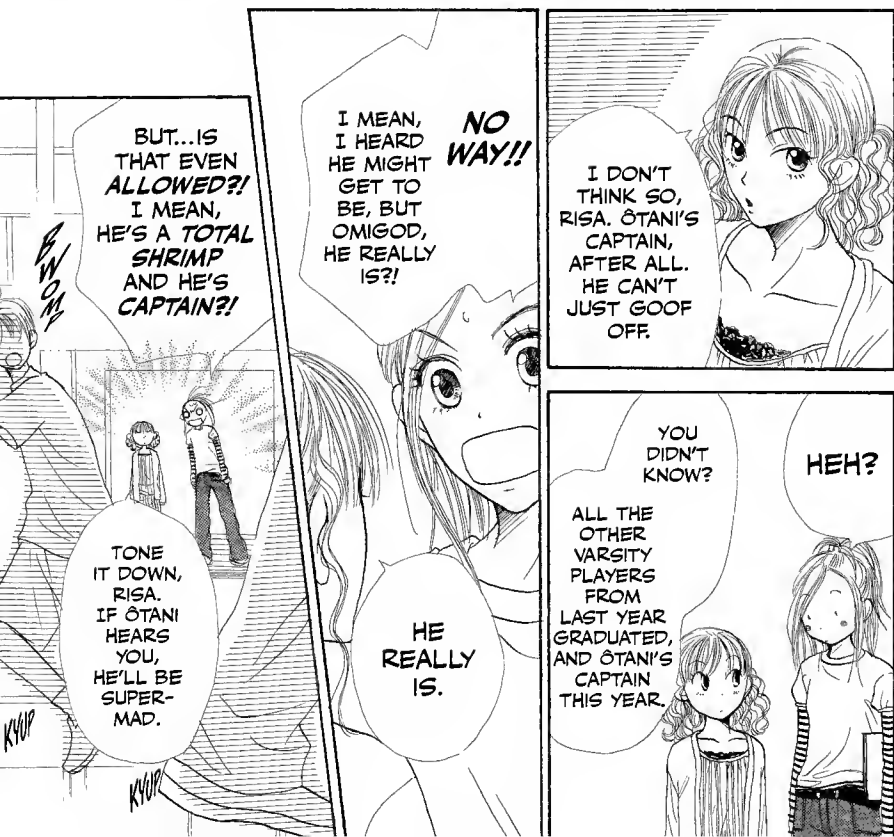
HE'S
RIGHT,
THOUGH.
I AM
SO
EASY.

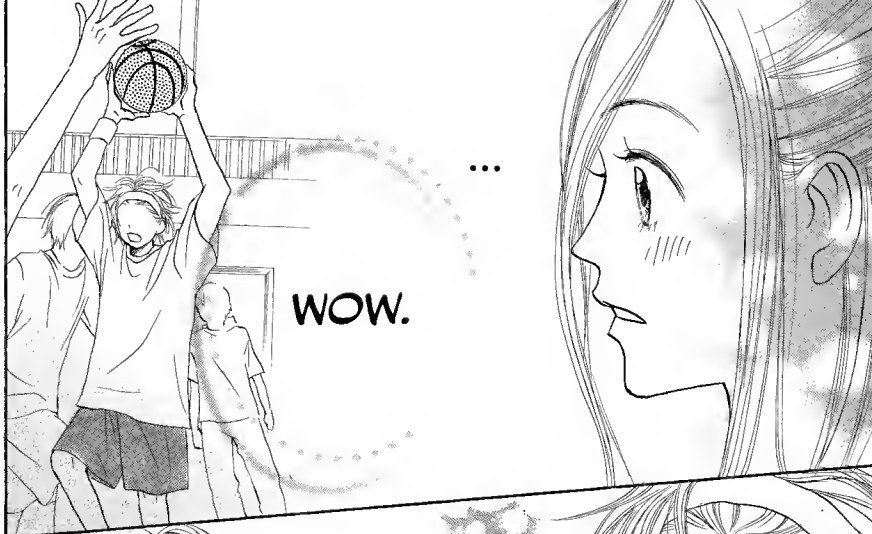
THIS
HAS
PUT ME
IN A
BETTER
MOOD.











WOW.



OVER
HERE,
DUDES!
TIME
OUT!

heh
heh

UMBO

HEY.

THAT'S
REALLY
AWE-
SOME.



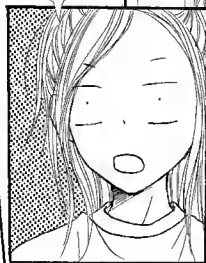
WANT
ME TO
HELP
YOU?

OH.
YEAH.

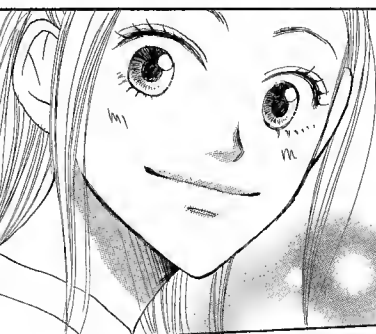


WE HAVE
MATCHING
TOWELS.

Well,
duh.



I
THOUGHT
YOU HAD
TO GO
DO THAT
CLASS REP
DRUDGE
WORK.



SURE
THING.

SO BABY
AND I'LL GO
HOME FIRST,
TO MAKE
SURE WE
AREN'T IN
YOUR WAY.

...BECAUSE
I HAVE
WAY TOO
MANY
REASONS
TO
CHOOSE
FROM!



WHY'S IT
GOTTA
BE ÔTANI
FOR ME?

I DON'T
KNOW...

HE'S THE
ONE FOR
ME, THAT'S
ALL. HE
JUST IS.

K
R
E
E

OH, HEY—
HOW WAS
PRACTICE?

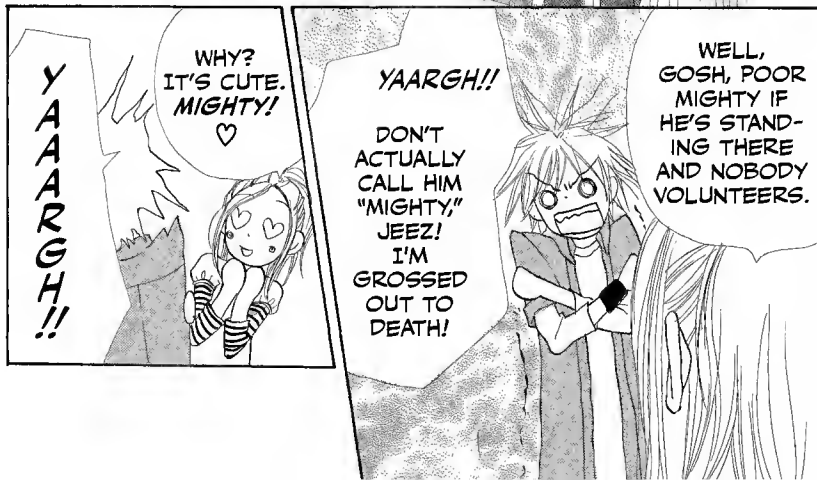
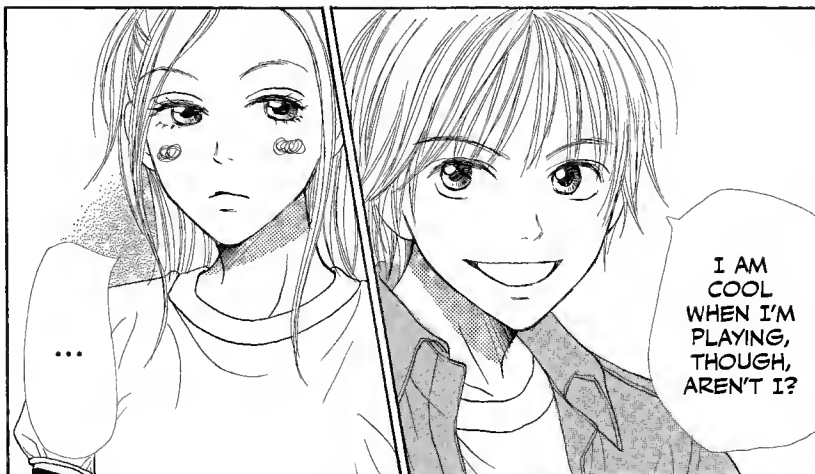
SORRY
I'M SO
LATE.

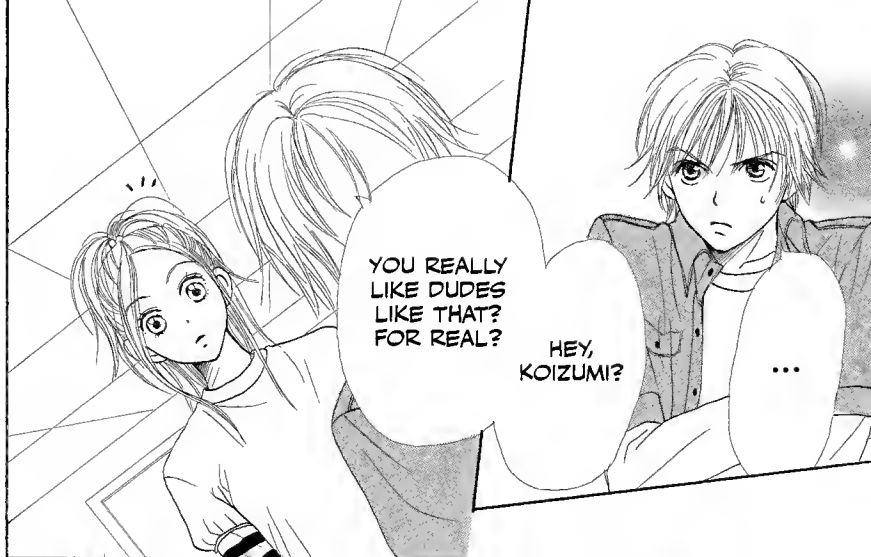
YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM USUAL
WHEN YOU'RE
PLAYING
BASKETBALL.

PHOOO...
TIRING.
I'M SO
WORN
OUT.

**DON'T
SAY IT
YOUR-
SELF!**

I KNOW,
I'M TOTALLY
KICK-ASS
COOL WHEN
I'M ON
THE COURT,
AREN'T I?



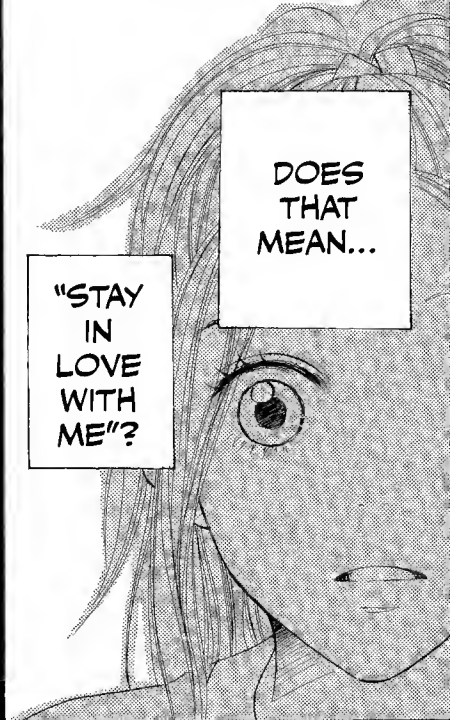


I'M GETTING PRETTY USED TO IT BY NOW. HE'S JUST SAYING IT OFF THE TOP OF HIS HEAD, AS USUAL. ...DOUBT IT.

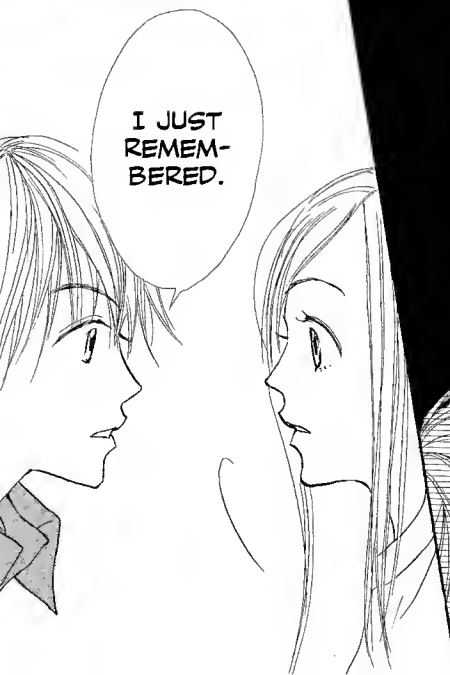


DOES THAT MEAN...

"STAY IN LOVE WITH ME"?



I JUST REMEMBERED.



OH.





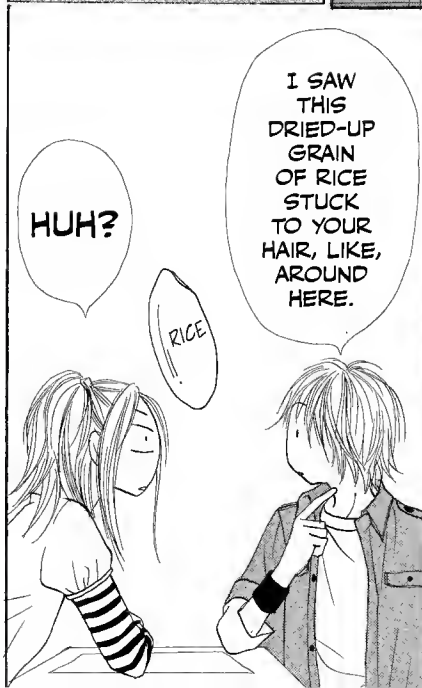
AND YOUR
FACE WAS
LIKE, RIGHT
UP CLOSE
IN FRONT
OF ME.

WE WERE
SITTING IN
MY ROOM,
ACROSS
FROM EACH
OTHER
LIKE THIS.



THE LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL,
WHEN I WAS
OUT SICK
AND YOU
CAME
OVER?

DA-DOOM



HUH?

RICE

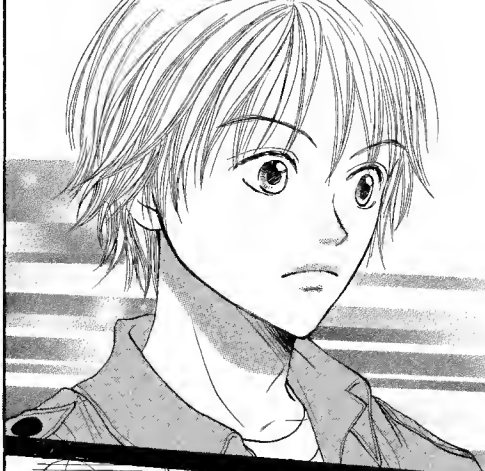
I SAW
THIS
DRIED-UP
GRAIN
OF RICE
STUCK
TO YOUR
HAIR, LIKE,
AROUND
HERE.



AND
THEN...

DA-DOOM





YOU WERE OUT
SICK THAT DAY
WITH A FEVER,
ACCORDING TO
NAKAO, SO I WAS
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU AND I ATE
REALLY FAST TO
HURRY OVER TO
SEE HOW YOU
WERE DOING!!



...

...OH.

OKAY.
I'M
SORRY.



I REALLY
WENT ALL
OUT THAT
TIME. I
REALLY
DID!

I
MEAN,
HE
SAYS
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT,
SO...

WE'RE
ALL
ALONE
AND
I'M NOT
IN MY
FEELING
ANY
BED-
ROOM...
URGE
TO MAKE
ANY
KINDA
MOVE
ON YOU.

...

RICE
...?



**AND
NOW
I FIND
OUT...**

**I COULD
JUST DIE
OF EMBAR-
RASSMENT
REMEMBER-
ING, IS HOW
ALL OUT
I WENT.**

**I
DON'T
ATTRACT
YOU AT
ALL?**



HUH?

**WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT...?**



**UH-
HUH?!**

**A
RICE
GRAIN
...**

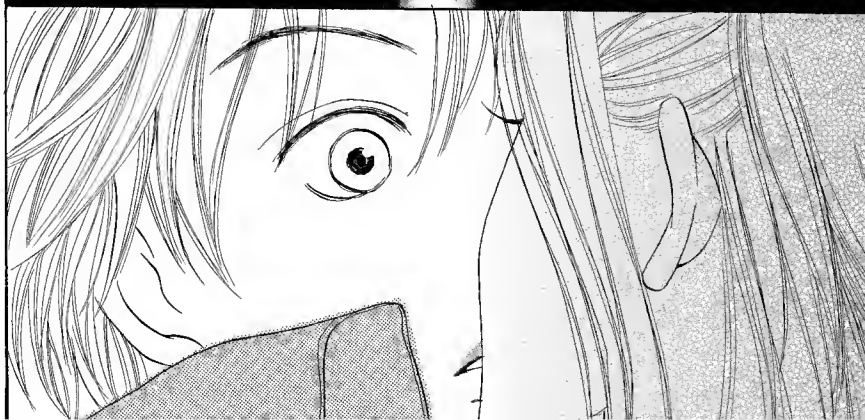
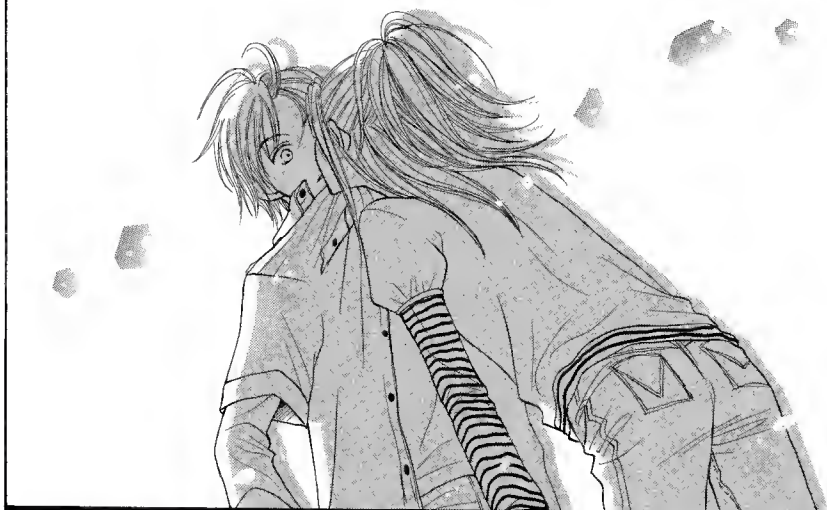


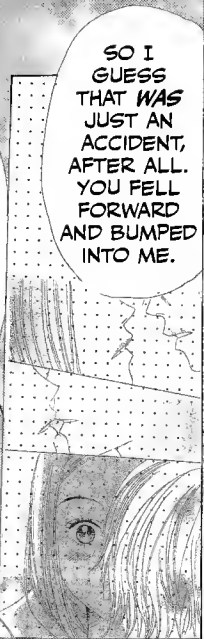
**...HE
WAS
TRYING
TO PICK
OFF A
RICE
GRAIN.**



**IT
WAS
NOT A
RICE
GRAIN
THAT
YOU
PICKED
OFF OF ME
THAT
DAY.**

**IT
WAS
MY
FIRST
KISS.**







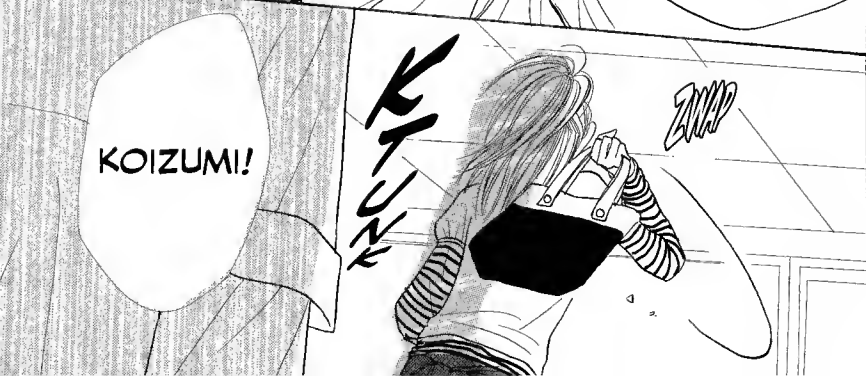
NO
MATTER
HOW LONG
I STAY
IN LOVE
WITH YOU...

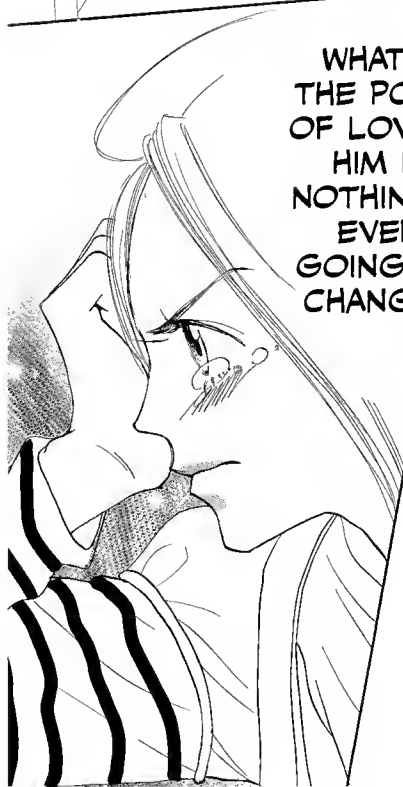


...KOI-
ZUMI...

THEN
I QUIT.

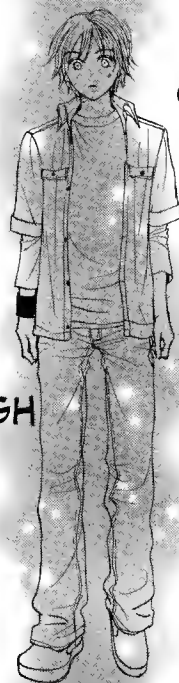
...NOTHING'S
EVER GOING
TO CHANGE
BETWEEN
US, IS IT?





WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF LOVING
HIM IF
NOTHING'S
EVER
GOING TO
CHANGE?

I'M
THROUGH
WITH
THIS.

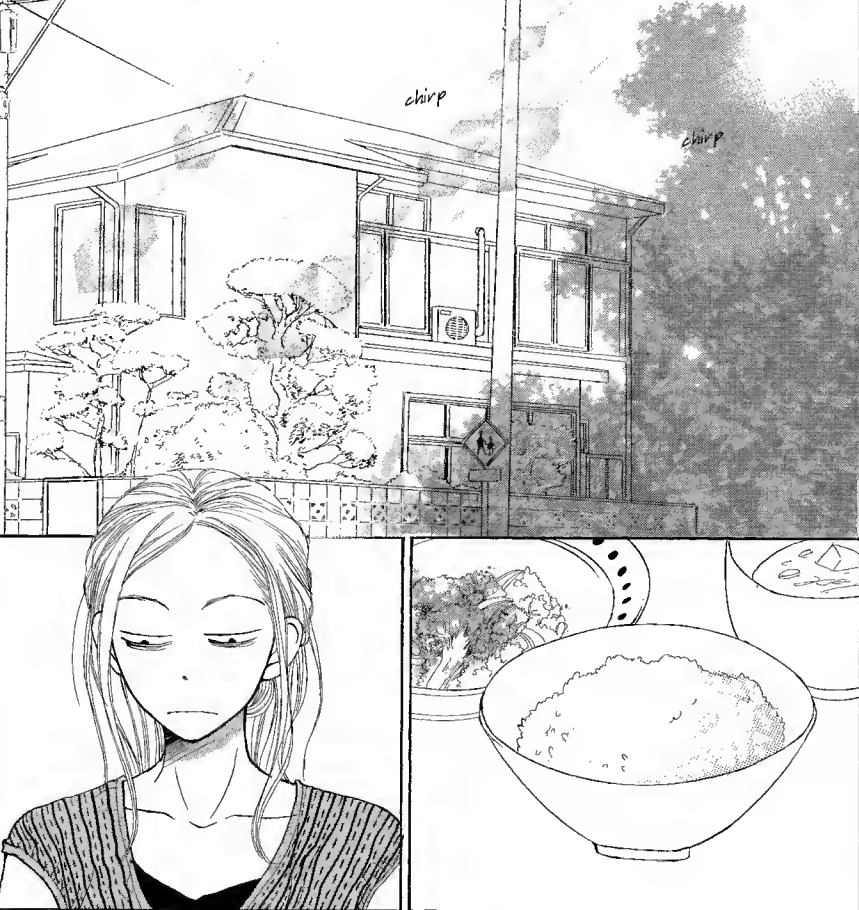


I
QUIT.

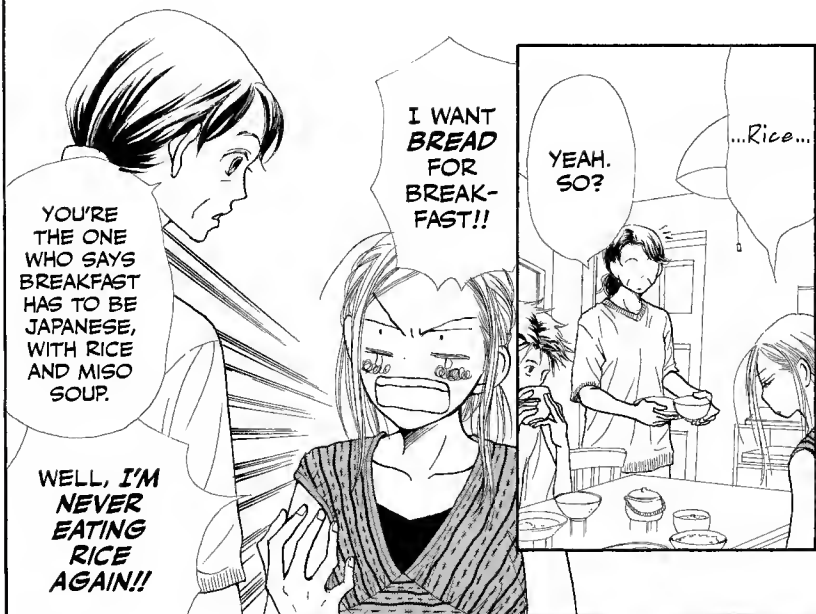


I
QUIT.
SO
THERE.





CHAPTER 23



YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO SAYS
BREAKFAST
HAS TO BE
JAPANESE,
WITH RICE
AND MISO
SOUP.

WELL, I'M
NEVER
EATING
RICE
AGAIN!!

I WANT
BREAD
FOR
BREAK-
FAST!!

YEAH.
SO?

...Rice...



IT'S
UNBELIEV-
ABLE.

WHAT'S
THE
DEAL?

THAT
DANE OR
WHATEVER-
HIS-NAME-IS
IN THAT GAME
OF YOURS,
HE GOT A
THING FOR
BREAD?

Maybe?

HE
DIDN'T
KISS
ME.

HE WAS JUST
TRYING TO PICK
A GRAIN OF
RICE OUT OF MY
HAIR WHEN HE
BLACKED OUT,
FELL FORWARD,
AND BUMPED
INTO ME.

IT
TURNS
OUT MY
FIRST
KISS...

...WAS
JUST AN
ACCIDENT.

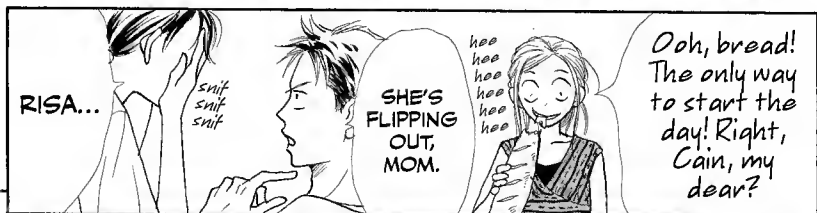


...we
won't
be able
to eat
breakfast
together
when
we get
married.

KRUNCH

Yeah... Cain
starts his
day with
croissants
and café au
lait, see...

So
I gotta
get used
to that
starting
now, or
else...



RISA...

snif
snif
snif

SHE'S
FLIPPING
OUT,
MOM.

hee
hee
hee
hee
hee

Ooh, bread!
The only way
to start the
day! Right,
Cain, my
dear?



blah

blah

Hey
girl!

I'M
ALMOST
FIVE FOOT
EIGHT,
SO I'M A
LITTLE BIT
ON THE
TALL SIDE.

AND
RIGHT
NOW,
I HAVE
A HUGE
CRUSH
ON THE
GREATEST
GUY.

HIS
NAME
IS...

I'M RISA
KOIZUMI,
AND I'M
17 YEARS
OLD.

HELLO,
EVERY-
BODY!
LET ME
INTRO-
DUCE
MYSELF
AGAIN.
♡



GOOD
MORNING!

MORNING,
RISA.

...MIGHTY!
♡



HUH?!
H-HOW
COME YOU
KNOW
ABOUT...?

YOU WERE
CRYING
YESTERDAY,
THOUGH,
WEREN'T
YOU?

YOU CAME
RUNNING
DOWN THE
HALL AND
BRUSHED
RIGHT
PAST ME.



OH,
GOOD.
YOU SEEM
TO BE IN
GOOD
SPIRITS.

HE LOOKS
EXACTLY
LIKE MY
DREAMY
CAIN...

...AND
IS AS
GOR-
GEOUS
AS EVER
TODAY!
♡

HUH? I'M
ALWAYS
IN GOOD
SPIRITS.

KYU
WE
BE
EN
MIGHTY...

DON'T
EVER THINK
YOU HAVE TO
SHOULDER
YOUR
PROBLEMS
ALONE.

IF YOU
NEED
SOMEONE
TO TALK
TO, I'M
ALWAYS
HERE FOR
YOU, RISA.

KOIZUMI.

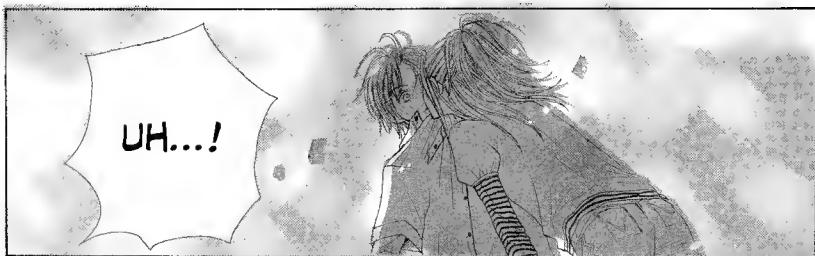
THAT'S RIGHT.
MIGHTY IS
FABULOUS,
AND I AM
CRAZY ABOUT
HIM.



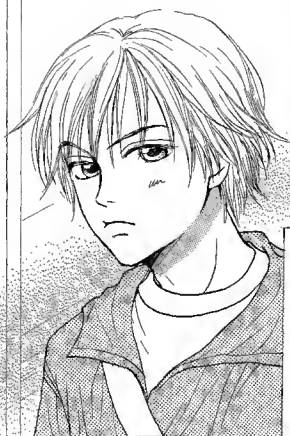
THANK
YOU!



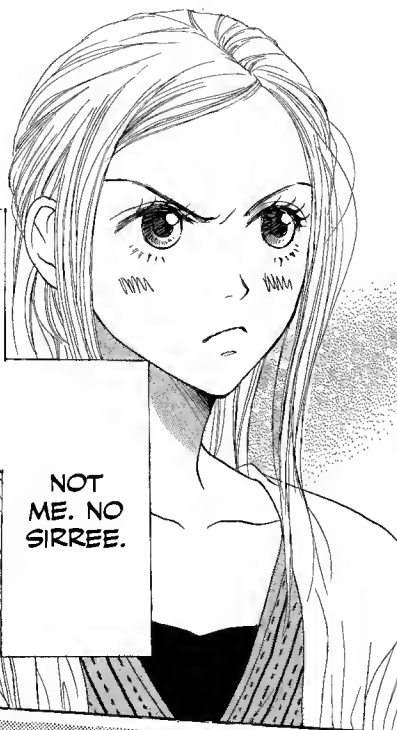
WHAT AM I, A GNAT? ONE DAY YOU FORCE YOURSELF ON SOMEBODY AND KISS HIM RIGHT ON THE LIPS, AND THE NEXT DAY YOU TREAT HIM LIKE A BUG?







'CUZ
I QUIT
CARING,
SO
THERE.



NOT
ME. NO
SIRREE.

I DO
NOT LOVE
THIS JERK
ANYMORE.
I AM
OVER HIM.

blah

blah

blah



YEAH!!
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

WHAAT?!
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
YOU
QUIT?!

'CUZ
CARING
ABOUT
HIM IS
JUST A
STUPID
WASTE
OF TIME.

blah

blah





That Umibôzu towel that Ôtani bought for himself and Risa at the show in this volume has been produced for real. It is very fluffy. Besides the towel, there's also a makeup bag, a coin purse, badges, key holders, a bag...

Bessatsu Margaret, the magazine, has been making Love☆Com products to give away. To 1,000 lucky readers (almost) every month! Which means, I would think, that if you write in for one, you will almost surely get it...

It is so much fun coming up with designs for Love☆Com goods.

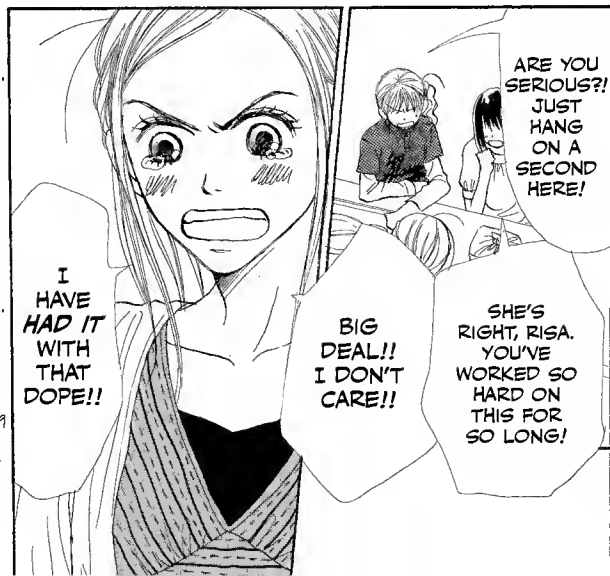
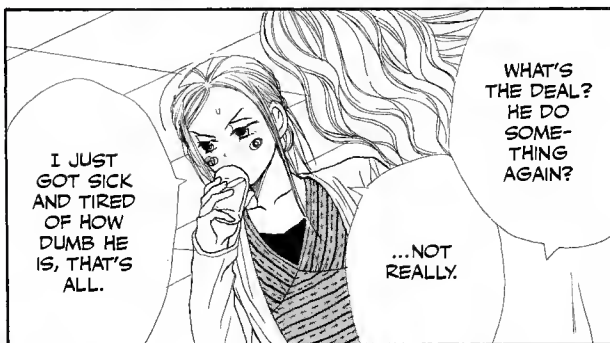
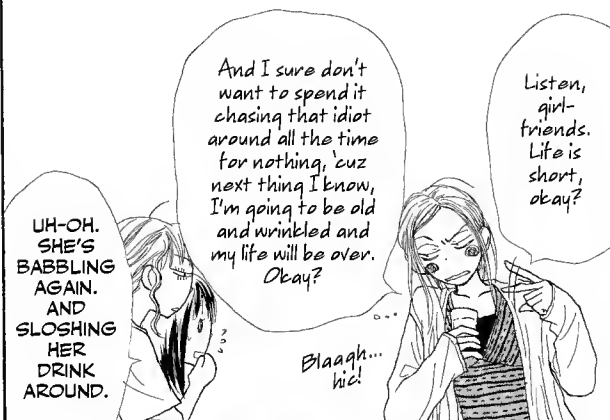


↑
I love making stuff like this. In fact, this is what I originally wanted to do for a living, but unfortunately... well, what you see here is the best I can come up with.

But now I'm really glad I got to be a manga artist instead!

So anyway, I thought I'd plug Bessatsu Margaret to you all in this rather roundabout fashion. Isn't that sneaky?!

But please do check out Bessatsu Margaret, too.♡







WELL,
GOSH...

I'VE
DONE
EVERY
SINGLE
THING I
COULD
THINK OF.

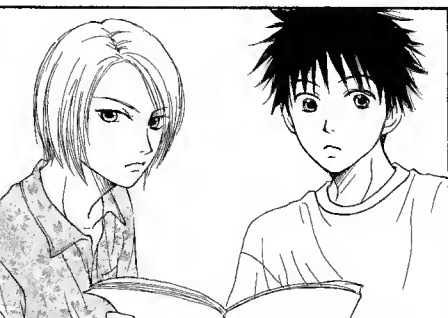


NO WAY!!
MAMA AIN'T
GONNA
STAND FOR
THAT, NO
WAY, NO
HOW!!

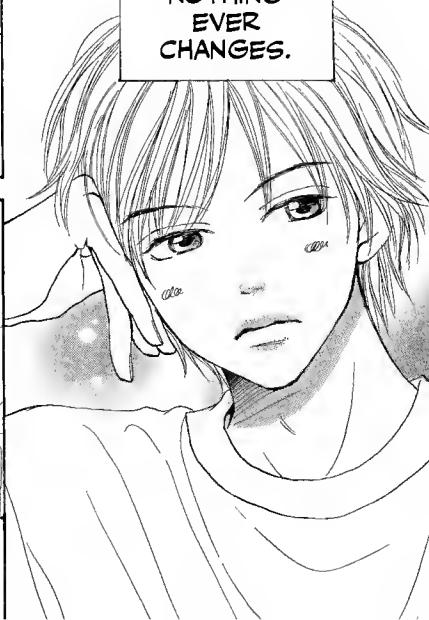
ARGH!!

Mama
...?

YOU THINK
MIGHTY IS
THAT NEW
LOVE SHE
WAS TALKING
ABOUT?



I TRIED
AND TRIED,
BUT NO
MATTER
WHAT I DO,
NOTHING
EVER
CHANGES.



WELL,
I GOT
CAUSE
TO BE
MOPEY.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
YOU'RE
REALLY...
MOPEY
THIS
MORNING.

WHAT
HAPPENED?







I QUIT,
SO
THERE.

...BUT
SHE'S NOT
ANYMORE.
SHE QUIT.

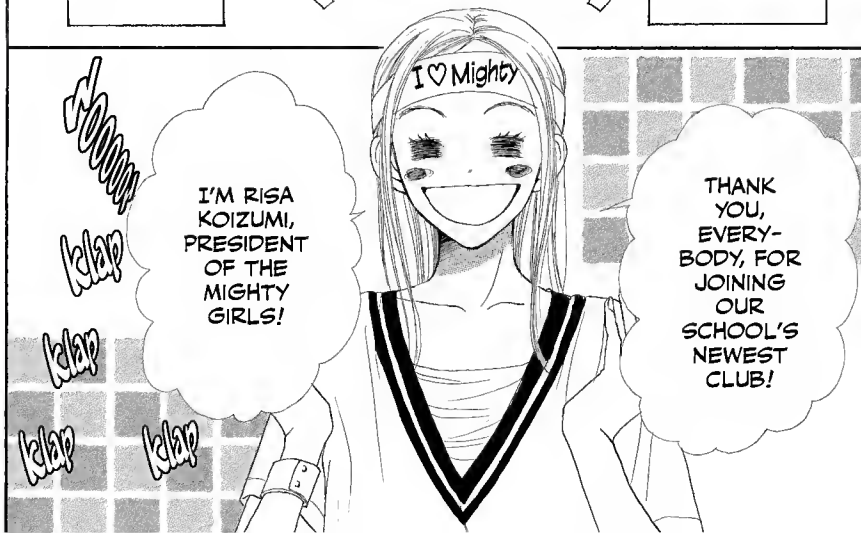
HUH?

GOOD-
BYE,
ÔTANI.

♡ The Kuniumi Maitake Fan Club ♡

**THE
MIGHTY
GIRLS**

THAT'S
RIGHT,
I QUIT!

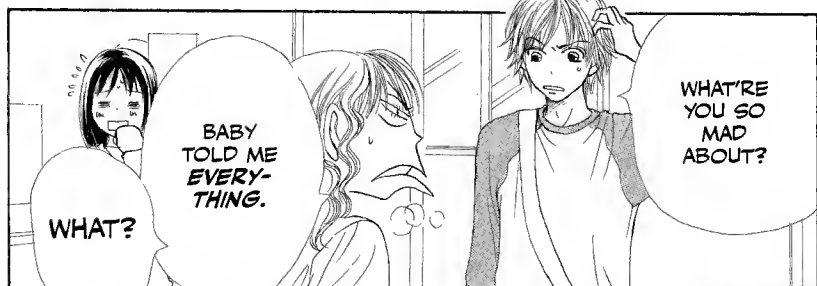
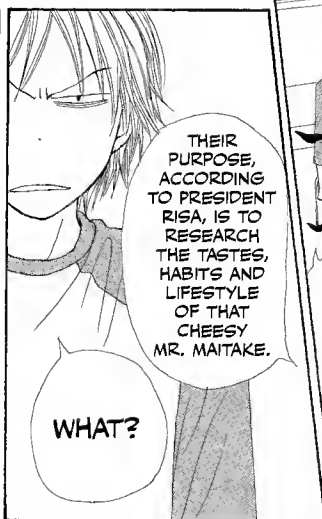


I'M RISA
KOIZUMI,
PRESIDENT
OF THE
MIGHTY
GIRLS!

I ♥ Mighty

THANK
YOU,
EVERY-
BODY, FOR
JOINING
OUR
SCHOOL'S
NEWEST
CLUB!







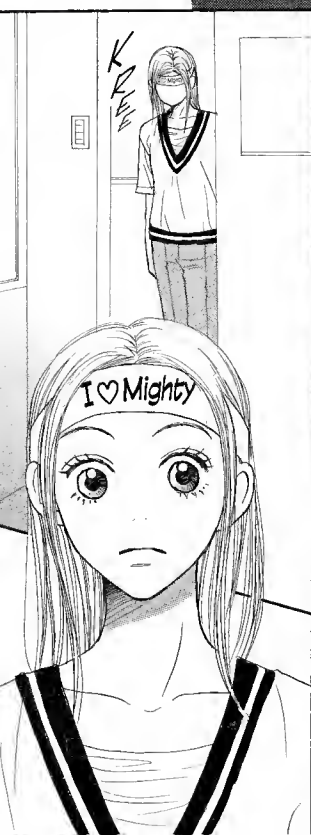
APOLO-
GIZE...?
FOR
WHAT...?

LOOK, IF
YOU JUST
APOLOGIZE
TO HER,
SHE'LL
COME BACK
TO HER
SENSES!

URGH...

*Can't
argue
with
that...*

'CUZ YOU'RE
SUCH A SPACE
CADET THAT
YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW IF
YOU KISSED OR
DIDN'T KISS OR
WHATEVER, AND
THAT'S WHAT
SENT RISA OFF
THE DEEP END!



I ♥ Mighty

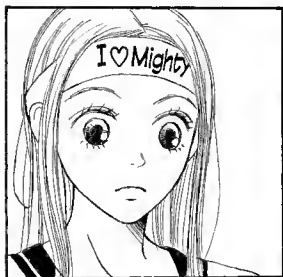
KRE



I MEAN,
THE
**MIGHTY
GIRLS?!**
DON'T MAKE
ME PUKE!!
JUST GET
HER OUTTA
THERE!!

JUST SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY!!
PERIOD!!

GAWW



HUH?

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?
DON'T YOU
HAVE
PRACTICE?

COACH
THREW HIS
BACK OUT,
SO THERE'S
NO PRACTICE
FOR A WHILE.



THINK

I CAN'T
BE
ALONE
WITH HIM
RIGHT
NOW.

I
CAN'T
DO
THIS.

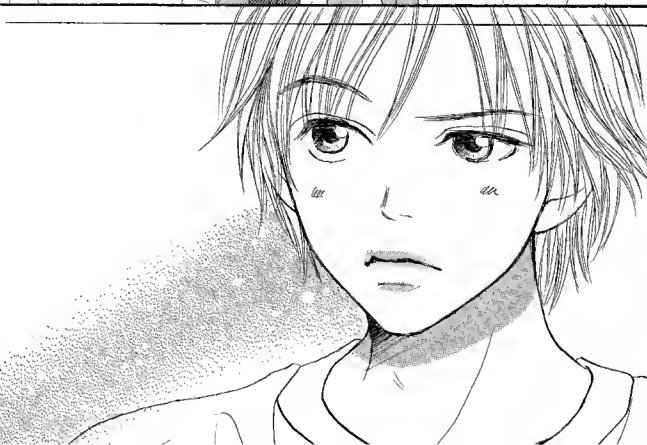
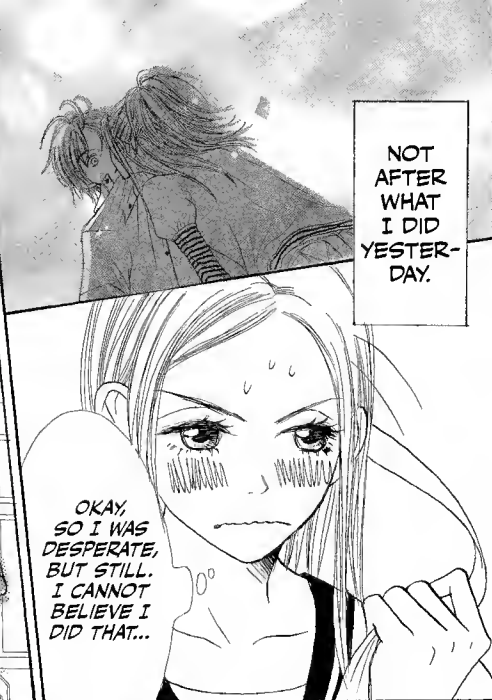
...

Too
lame.

Girl,
that
head-
band's
gotta
go.

blech

It's a free
country.
Leave me
alone.

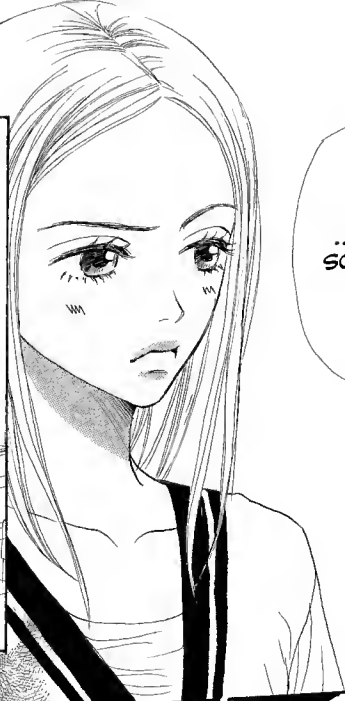




...WAIT A
MINUTE.
WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING
SORRY
FOR?

...HE'S
SORRY
...?

HUH?



...I'M
SORRY.



...YOU'RE SORRY,
BUT YOU'RE
NEVER EVER
GOING TO BE
ATTRACTED
TO ME IN A
MILLION YEARS,
NO MATTER
WHAT I DO?

FOR NOT
REMEMBERING
THAT YOU
KISSED ME?

OR
DID YOU
MEAN...



...

...WELL,
GOSH.



I'M VERY
SORRY FOR
ALL THE
TROUBLE I'VE
CAUSED YOU
THE LAST
COUPLE
YEARS.

I TOLD
YOU,
REMEMBER?
I QUIT.

KOI-

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME, I'LL
BE JUST
FINE.

DON'T
MAKE IT SO
OBVIOUS
THAT YOU
DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO SAY.

HUH?

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.
IT REALLY
DOESN'T
MATTER.

...FOR-
GET IT.



...HE
COULD'VE
SAID...

I HAVE
TO ADMIT,
I WAS
ACTUALLY
KIND OF
HOPING HE
WOULD.




NO, WAIT!
I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO QUIT
LOVING
ME!

KOI-
ZUMI...

SHARP

K
K
K
K
K



AS IF HE'D
EVER SAY
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

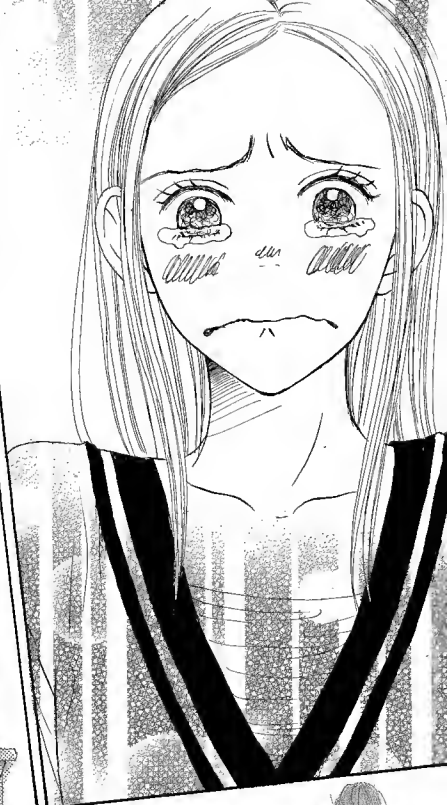
YEAH,
DREAM
ON.





RISA'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT,
HUH?

I
GUESS
SHE'S
REALLY
SERIOUS
ABOUT
HIM.



...NOTHING'S
EVER
GOING TO
CHANGE,
IS IT?



NO
MATTER
HOW
LONG
I STAY
IN LOVE
WITH
YOU...



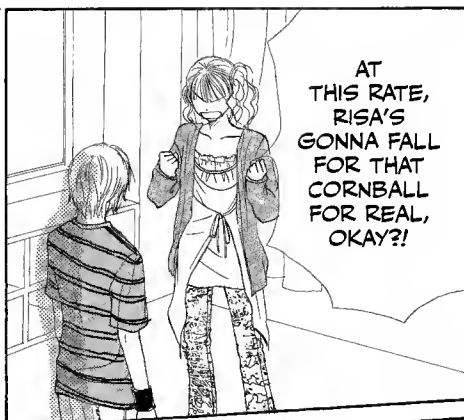




I
REALLY...

...DON'T
CARE
ANY-
MORE...







MIGHTY!

ARE YOU
FEELING
BETTER
TODAY?

I'M FINE.
SORRY
ABOUT
THAT
YESTER-
DAY.

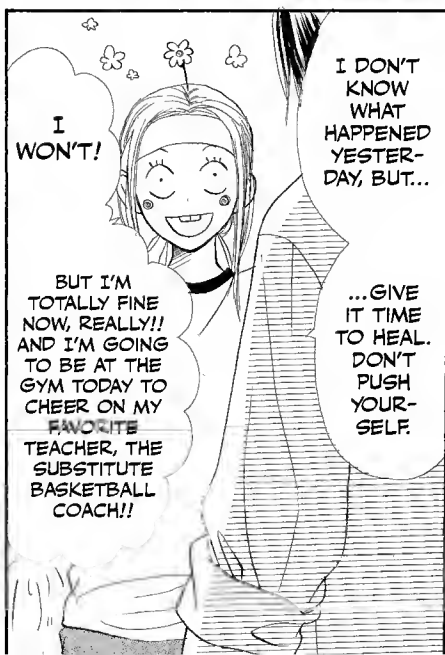
HI,
RISA.



M-I-
G-H-T-
AND-Y!
I ♥
MIGHTY!

HEH
HEH!
HEE
HEE
HEE!!

THANKS
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT,
RISA.



I
WON'T!

BUT I'M
TOTALLY FINE
NOW, REALLY!!
AND I'M GOING
TO BE AT THE
GYM TODAY TO
CHEER ON MY
FAVORITE
TEACHER, THE
SUBSTITUTE
BASKETBALL
COACH!!

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED
YESTER-
DAY, BUT...

...GIVE
IT TIME
TO HEAL.
DON'T
PUSH
YOUR-
SELF.

SHALL WE GET STARTED?

YOU ARE SO FINE!

SHALL WE GET STARTED?

YOU ARE SO FINE!

WE
LOVE
YOU,
MIGHTY!

WE
LOVE
YOU,
MIGHTY!

...YOU
EVEN
KNOW
HOW TO
PLAY?

SHARP

LET'S FIND OUT!

MIGHTY

SHARP

LET'S FIND OUT!

MIGHTY

HEY, NO FAIR!
GET BACK HERE!!

THAT WAS SO COOL!

WOO-HOO!
GO, MIGHTY,
GO!

KYUP

HEY, NO FAIR!
GET BACK HERE!!

THAT WAS SO COOL!

WOO-HOO!
GO, MIGHTY,
GO!

KYUP

HEY, NO FAIR!
GET BACK HERE!!

THAT WAS SO COOL!

WOO-HOO!
GO, MIGHTY,
GO!

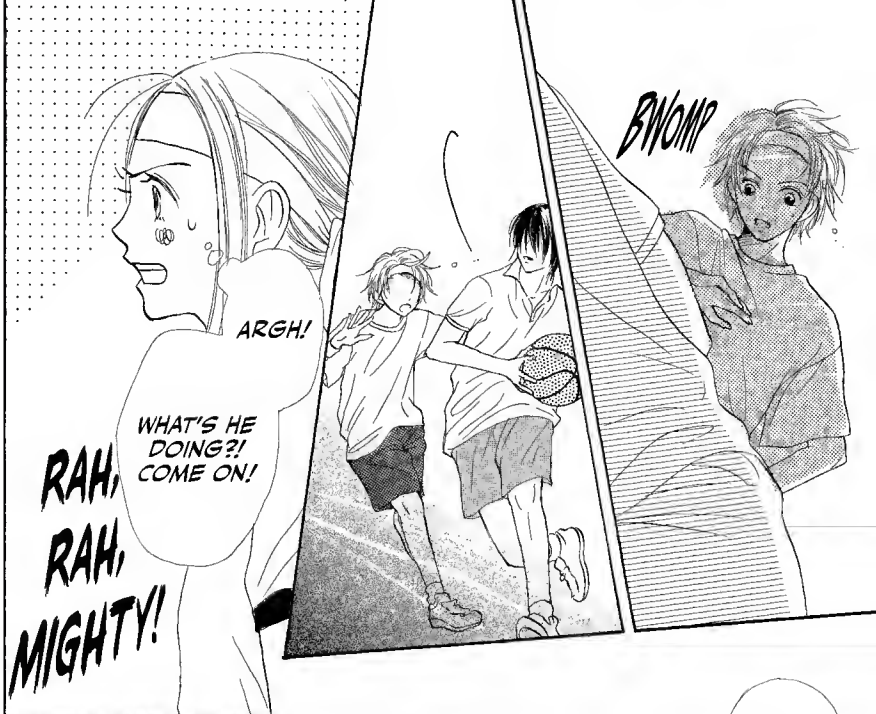
KYUP

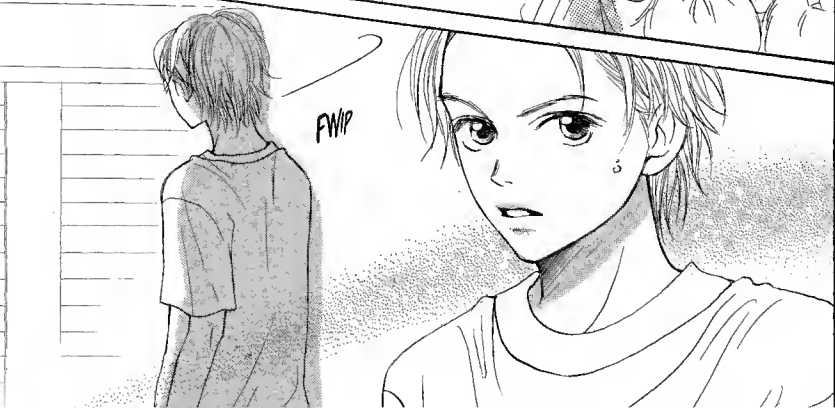
HEY, NO FAIR!
GET BACK HERE!!

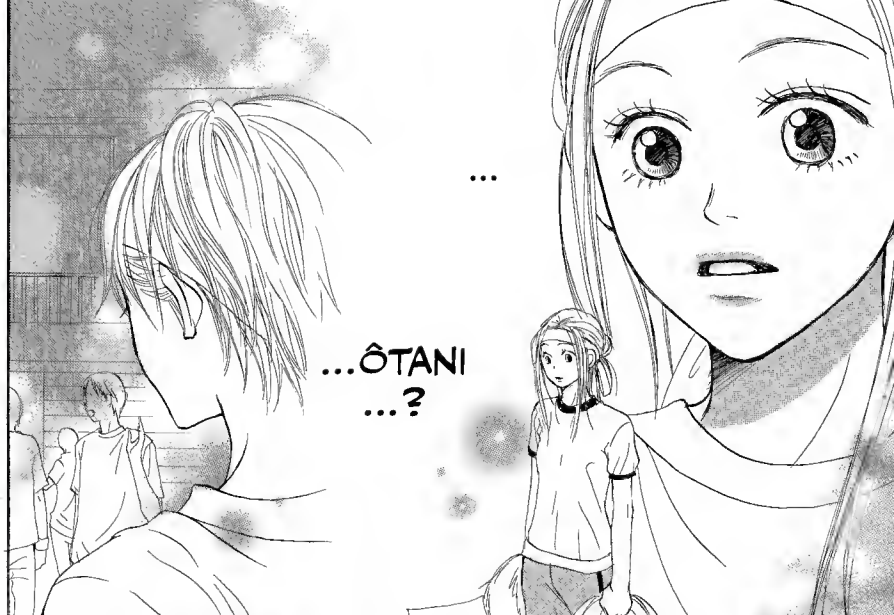
THAT WAS SO COOL!

WOO-HOO!
GO, MIGHTY,
GO!

KYUP







...

...ÔTANI
...?



COME ON,
ÔTANI.
WHAT
ABOUT
PRACTICE?

ONE
MORE
TIME,
DUDE!!

ha
ha
ha
SURE!

LATER!!



Y
A
A
A
A



RISA...



I AM
DEVOTING
THE REST
OF MY
LAST YEAR
IN HIGH
SCHOOL TO
WONDERFUL
MIGHTY,
SO THERE.

YES.
SERIOUSLY.



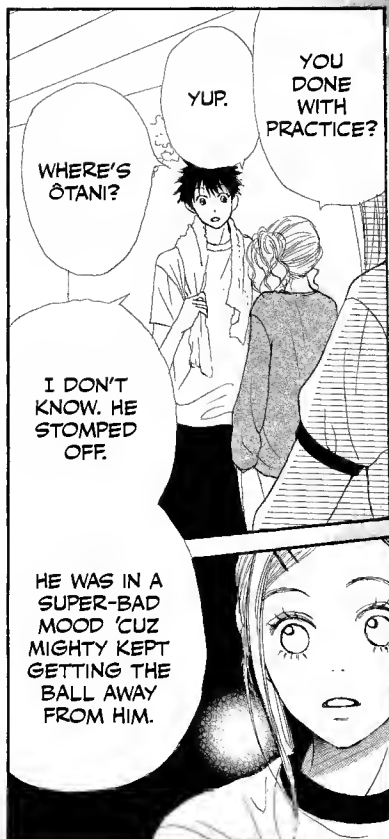
HEY,
ARE YOU
REALLY
COOL
WITH THIS?
SERIOUSLY.

HEY, SO
THIS IS
WHERE
YOU ALL
ARE!

RISA...

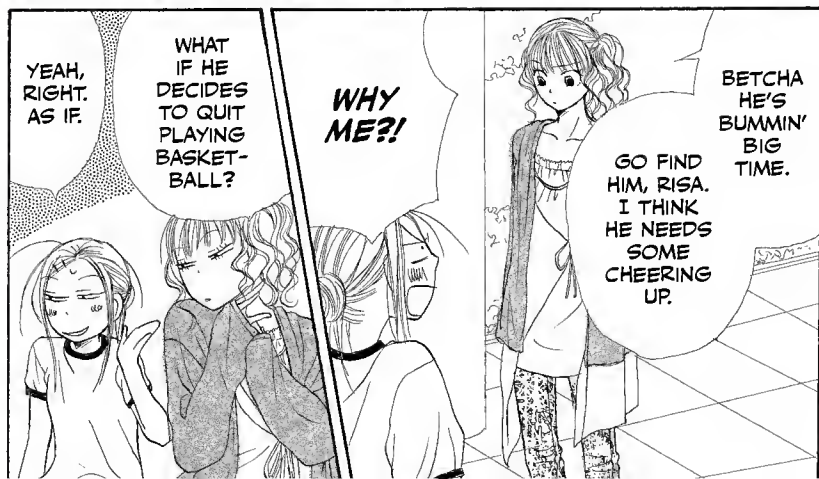
GIVE ME
A MAJOR
BREAK
HERE, THE
GUY MAKES
ME GAG!!

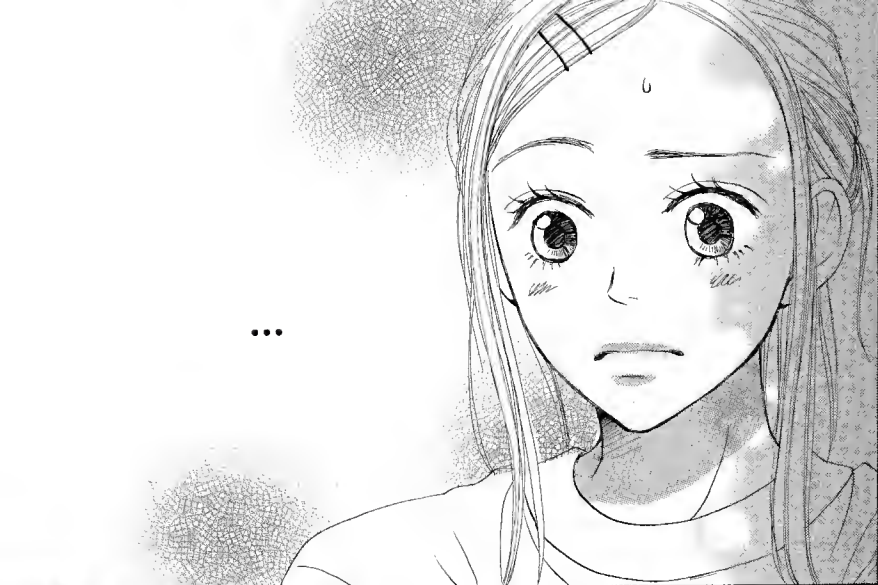
WILL
YOU
JUST
CUT IT
OUT?!

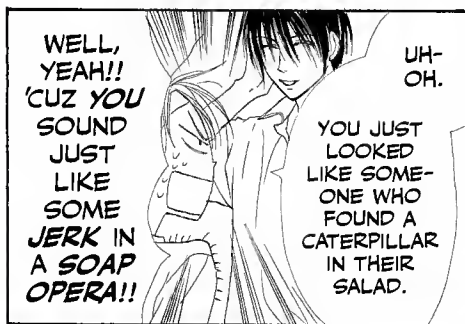


AFTER ALL THE HARD WORK I PUT INTO THAT...

WELL, WHAT ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?







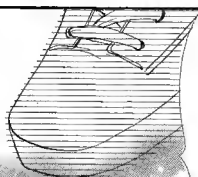


I
THINK
RISA
MIGHT
BE IN
LOVE
WITH
YOU.



LAY
OFF!
JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE,
MAN!!

SO I WAS
WONDERING
WHAT YOUR
FEELINGS
FOR HER
ARE.



...YEAH,
SO?



THEN MAYBE
I'LL GRAB
HER. WHAT
DO YOU SAY
TO THAT?

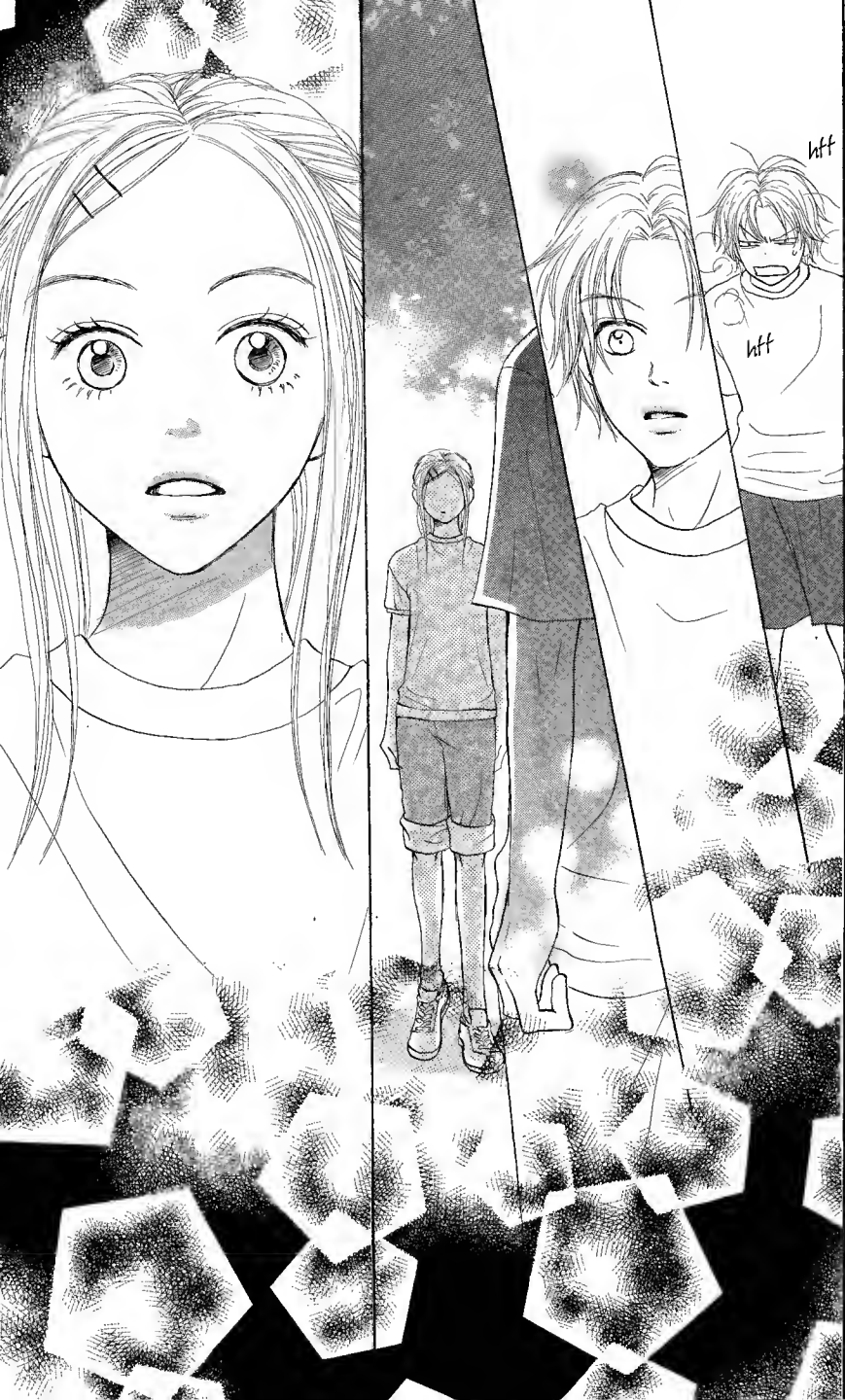


NONE
OF
YOUR
BEES-
WAX!



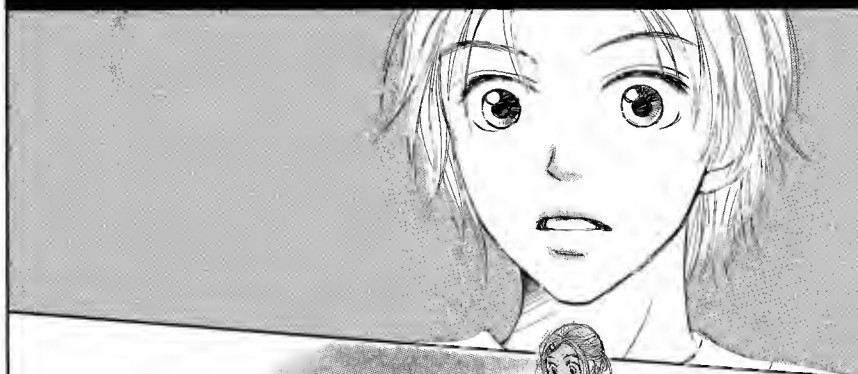
**I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
KOIZUMI,
ALL RIGHT?!
SHE MEANS
NOTHING
TO ME!!**

**LIKE
I SAID,
DO
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT!**



...HEAR
THAT
WRONG
JUST NOW,
DID I...?

...I
DIDN'T...

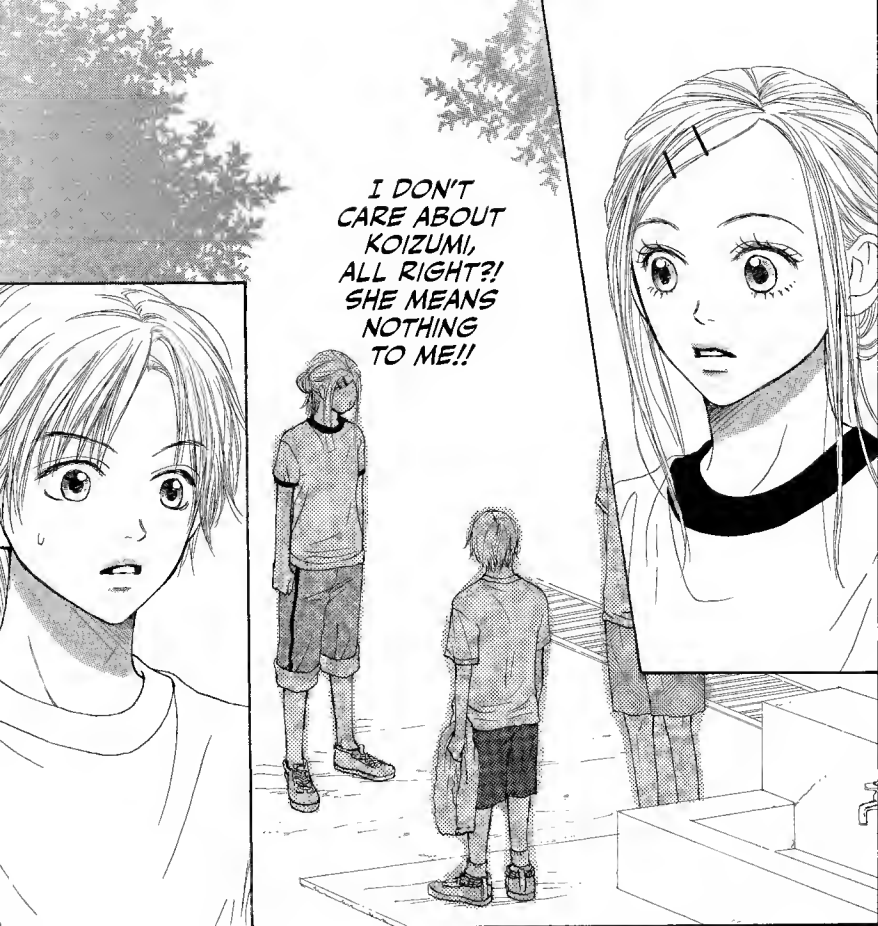


...JUST
BEEN
REJECTED
A SECOND
TIME BY
THE SAME
GUY?



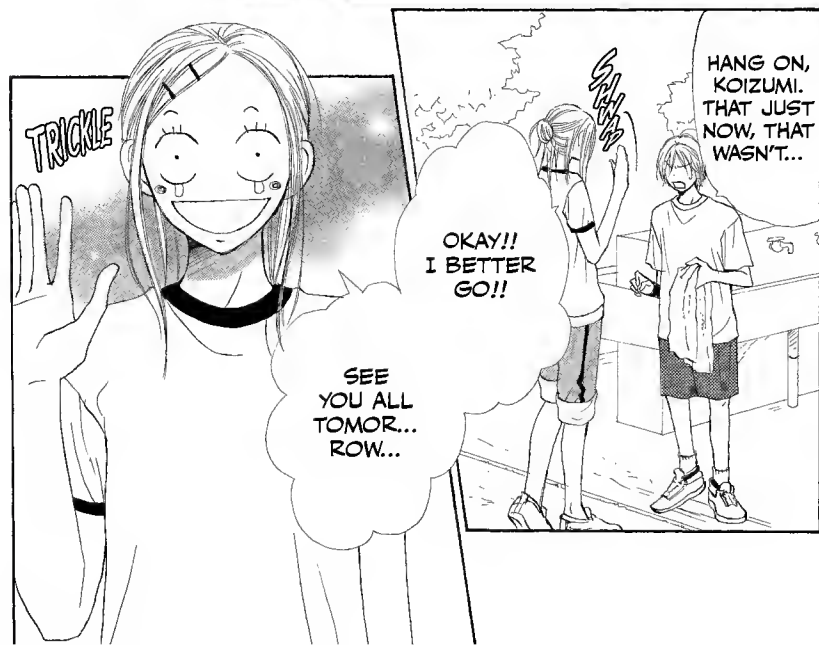
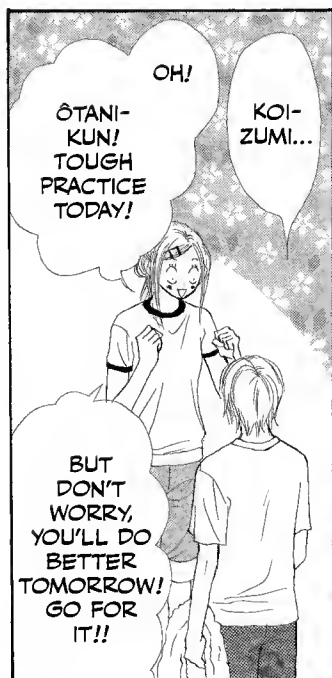
I'VE...





CHAPTER 24







I DON'T CARE
ABOUT KOIZUMI.
SHE MEANS
NOTHING TO ME.

...I KNOW THAT.



G-
G...

GOOD-
BYE!!

DASH

KOIZUMI!!

HE DIDN'T
HAVE TO
COME
RIGHT OUT
AND SAY IT,
'CUZ I
KNOW IT.

I
KNOW
THAT.

RISA!

MIGHTY...





DUDES...

WHAT'S
WITH THAT
ATTITUDE?!
I SEE NO
SIGN OF
REMORSE
HERE!!

THAT'S
ONE
MORE
HOUR!!

ENOUGH
ALREADY.
LEMME
GO HOME
NOW.

WHAAT?!

REAL
MEN
DON'T
BLAME
THINGS
ON
OTHER
PEOPLE!

THAT'S
ONE
MORE
HOUR!

LISTEN,
THE WHOLE
THING
HAPPENED
'CUZ THAT
CHEESY
DUDE HAD
TO BUTT IN
AND STIR
THINGS UP!!

THIS IS
WHAT YOU
GET FOR
BREAKING
A YOUNG
GIRL'S
HEART!



HE WENT
RUNNING
AFTER
RISA.

SPEAK-
ING OF
MIGHTY...
WHERE
DID HE
GO?

I MEAN
THIS
IDIOT
RIGHT
HERE!!

WHADDAYA
MEAN,
THIS
IDIOT? **WHAT**
IDIOT?!



'CUZ EVEN
MIGHTY'S A
THOUSAND
TIMES
BETTER
THAN **THIS**
IDIOT.

I SWEAR,
RISA
SHOULD
JUST
START
GOING OUT
WITH THAT
MIGHTY.

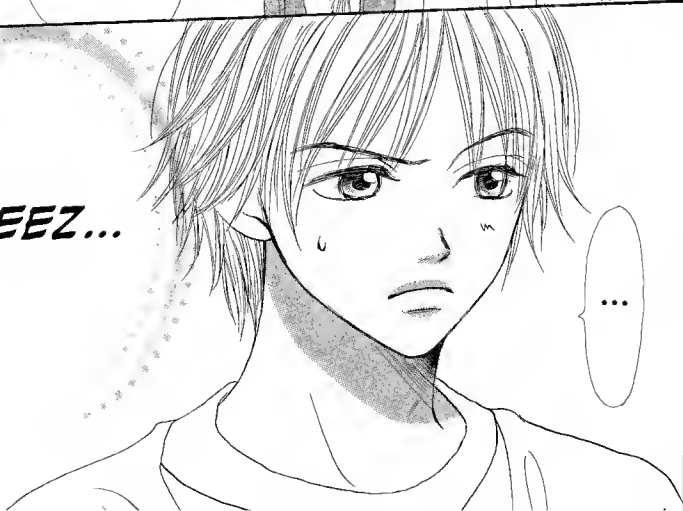


UNLIKE
SOMEBODY
AROUND
HERE.

YEAH.
HE'S
BOGUS,
BUT HE'S
SUPER-
NICE.

HE'S
PROBABLY
COMFORTING
HER NOW IN
HIS CHEESY
WAY.

...JEEZ...



...

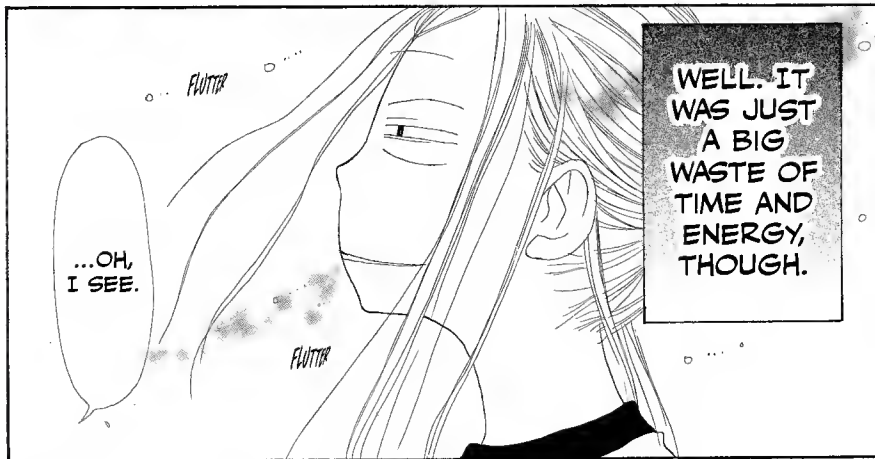


...I
TRIED
REALLY
HARD. I
REALLY
DID.

STILL,
STARTING
AROUND
LAST
SUMMER...

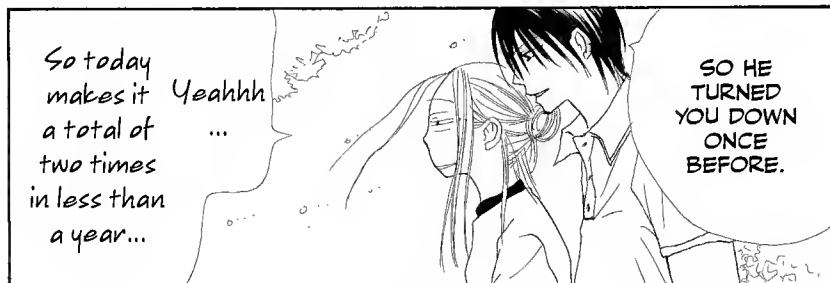
WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO
WITH
MYSELF
NOW?

NOT THAT
THERE'S
ANYTHING
I *CAN* DO,
I GUESS.



...OH,
I SEE.

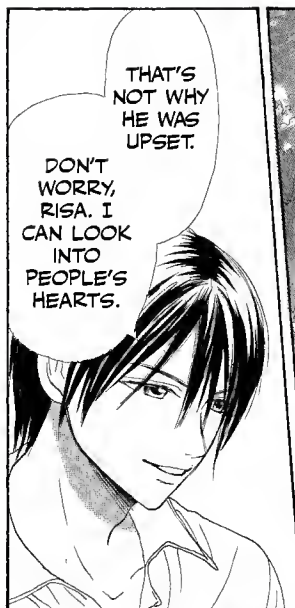
WELL. IT
WAS JUST
A BIG
WASTE OF
TIME AND
ENERGY,
THOUGH.



So today
makes it
a total of
two times
in less than
a year...

Yeahhh
...

SO HE
TURNED
YOU DOWN
ONCE
BEFORE.



THAT'S
NOT WHY
HE WAS
UPSET.

DON'T
WORRY,
RISA. I
CAN LOOK
INTO
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS.

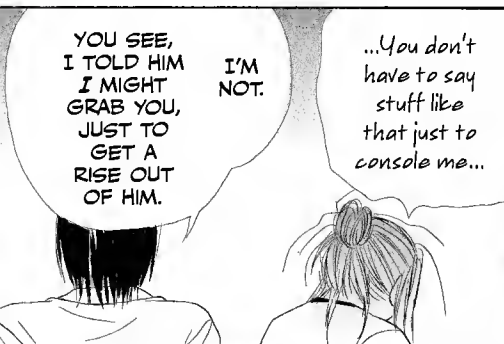


DON'T
TAKE WHAT
HE SAID
EARLIER
TOO MUCH
TO HEART,
RISA.

HE
WAS JUST
LASHING
OUT AT ME
TO COVER
UP HIS
EMBARRASS-
MENT.

WHAT DO
I HAVE
TO DO
WITH YOU
BEATING
HIM AT
BASKET-
BALL,
ANYWAY?

hff
OH
RIGHT,
AS IF.



YOU SEE,
I TOLD HIM
I MIGHT
GRAB YOU,
JUST TO
GET A
RISE OUT
OF HIM.

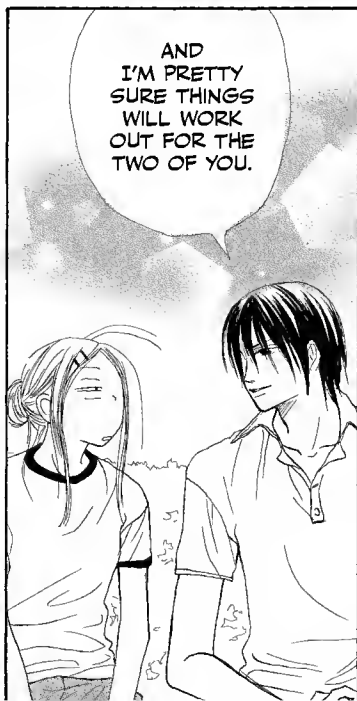
I'M
NOT.

...You don't
have to say
stuff like
that just to
console me...

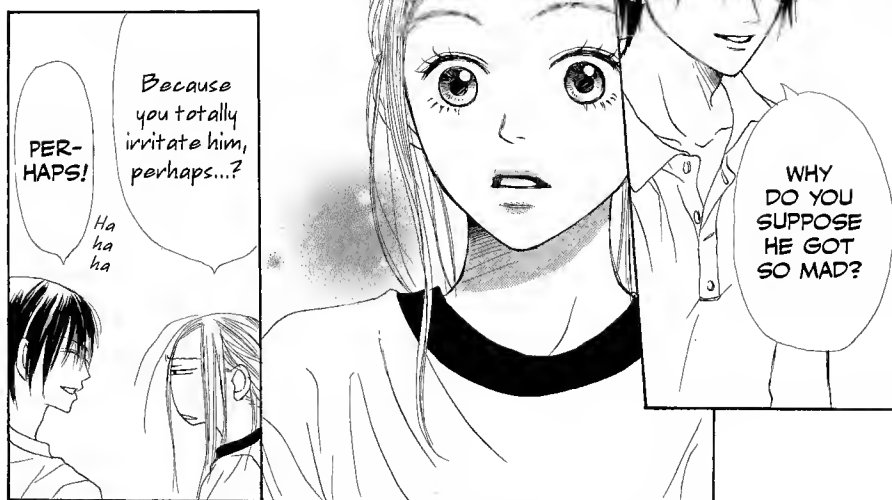


AND HE
LASHED OUT
WITH WHAT
YOU HEARD
IN RESPONSE
TO THAT,
BECAUSE HE
WAS VERY
ANGRY.

YOU
WHAT?!



AND
I'M PRETTY
SURE THINGS
WILL WORK
OUT FOR THE
TWO OF YOU.

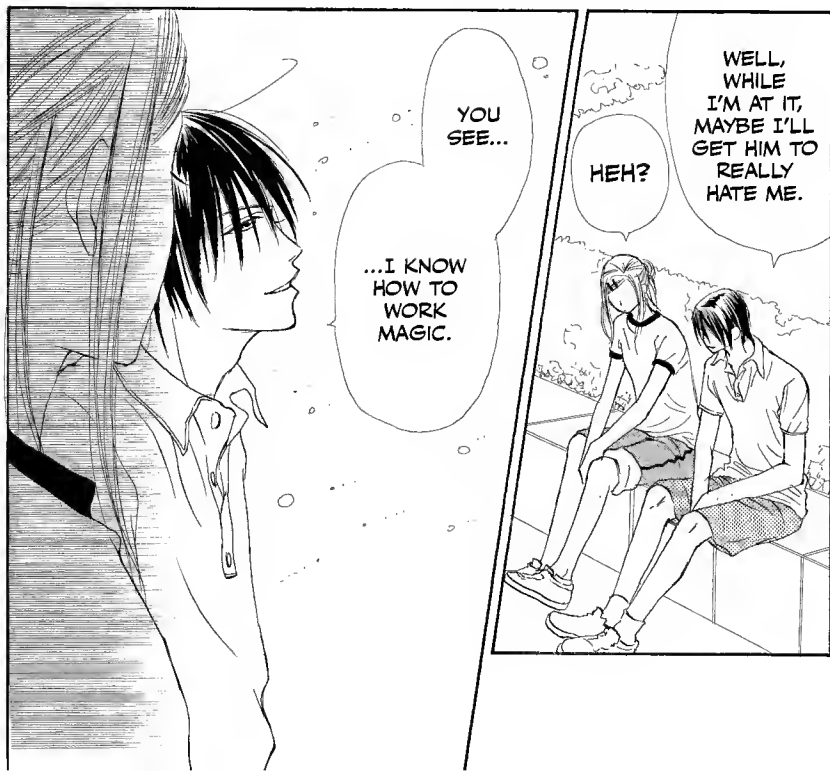


PER-
HAPS!

Ha
ha
ha

Because
you totally
irritate him,
perhaps...?

WHY
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
HE GOT
SO MAD?



YOU
SEE...

...I KNOW
HOW TO
WORK
MAGIC.

HEH?

WELL,
WHILE
I'M AT IT,
MAYBE I'LL
GET HIM TO
REALLY
HATE ME.



This is something that is really ho-hum-who-cares, but I'm not too crazy about how the kanji for "like/love" (suki, 好き) looks, so I consciously avoid using it in my manga and write the word out in hiragana. I mean, it's a combination of "woman" and "child"!

I don't like the kanji for ore (a male form of I) either.

俺
↑

Don't you think this part is insect-like? Like a bug's tail.

俺,,

Eeeeeuuuu!!
Gross!!

And so, from pretty far back, I've been writing this word in katakana. I think it's cuter that way...

Oh gosh, who cares?! This really was a ho-hum-who-cares topic!! It's boring! You are so boring, Aya!

Wait, no, you see, I wanted people to know I'm not just some ignoramus who doesn't know her kanji. Those are deliberate choices!!

So anyway...



AT THAT
MOMENT,
I HAD A
REVELA-
TION.

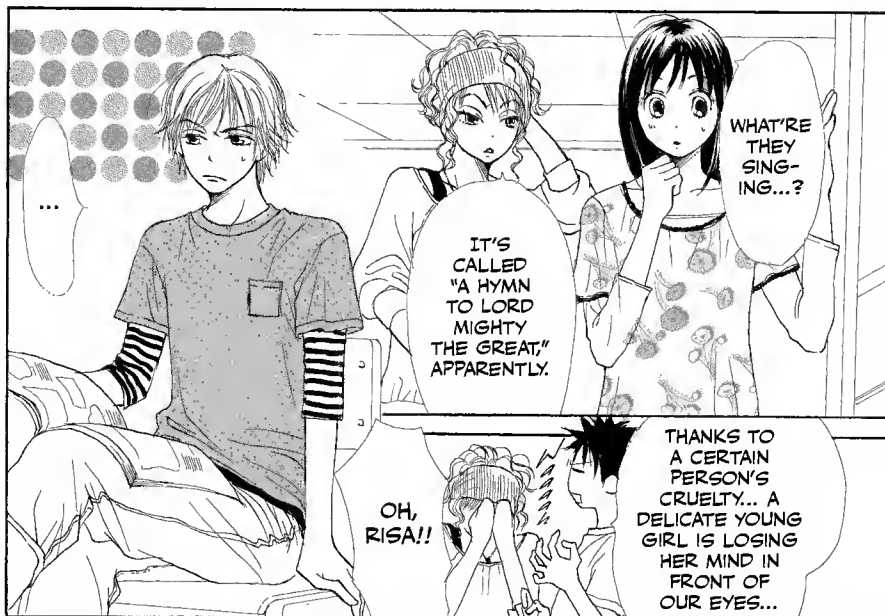
THERE
WAS ONLY
ONE
PERSON IN
THE ENTIRE
WORLD WHO
COULD LIFT
ME OUT
OF THIS
DARKNESS
AND
MISERY.

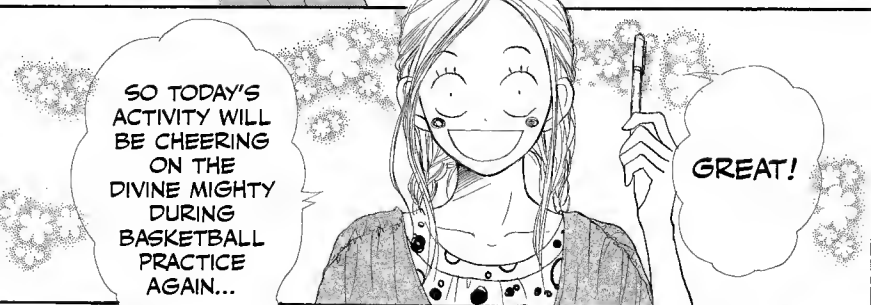
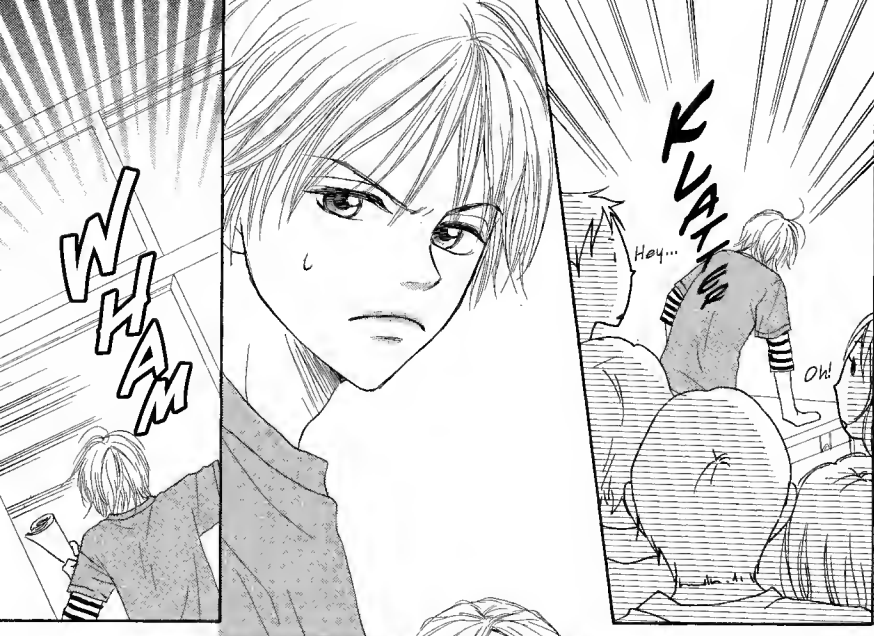
AND I'LL
USE MY
MAGIC TO
MAKE YOU
HAPPY,
RISA.

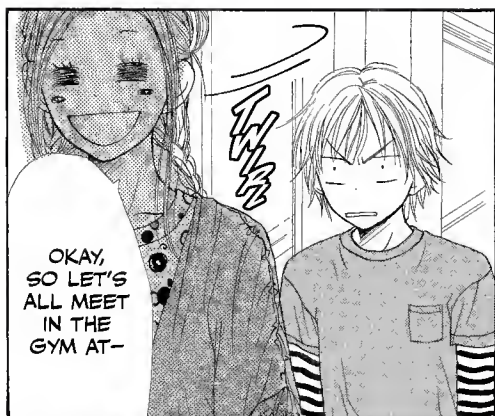
AND
THAT
WAS
MIGHTY.

NO...

LORD
MIGHTY!!









Phooo...

This is the last one.
But there are a couple
bonus pages at the end.
They're a report about
the time I went on the
radio.

What with one thing
and another, I've been
going quite a few times
a month to Tokyo for
work (I live in Osaka).
I always take my
unfinished manga
installments with me...
and work on them in
dim hotel rooms...

Which makes me sound
super-busy and kinda
cool, but actually I'm
just a very slow worker.
hahahahaha

Well then, I hope to
see you again. Next up
is Volume 7. Time for
the seventh-inning
stretch! Want to
release some balloons?



Who'd believe a
professional manga
artist drew these
balloons?

Bye!!

September 2003

Aya



So I'll see
you all in
the gym
later!



I WANT TO
CHEER LORD
MIGHTY ON
WITH HEART
AND SOUL,
AND FOR
THAT I NEED
A STRONG
BODY!

YOU'RE
EATING
ALL OF
THOSE
BY YOUR-
SELF?



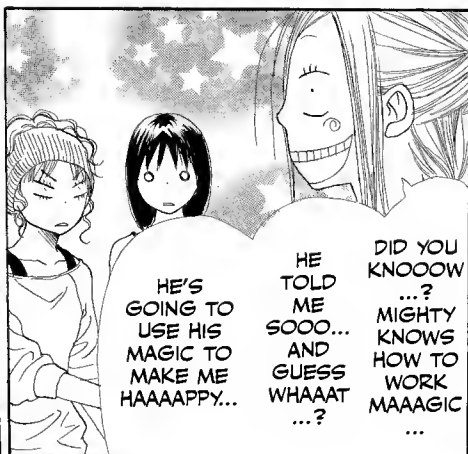
MIGHTY'S
WAY
BETTER
THAN
HIM.

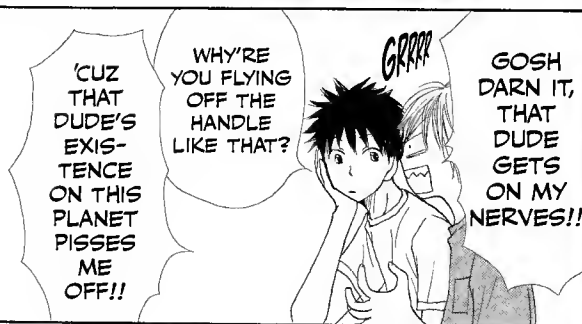
'CUZ
I'VE
HAD IT
WITH
OTANI
TOO.

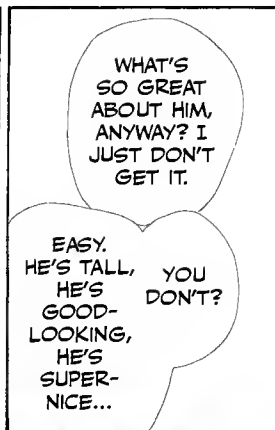
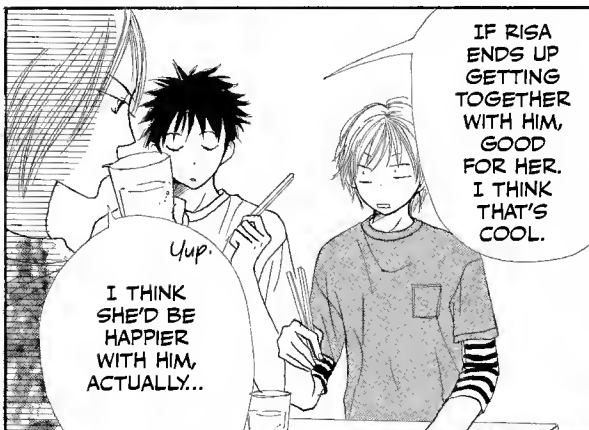
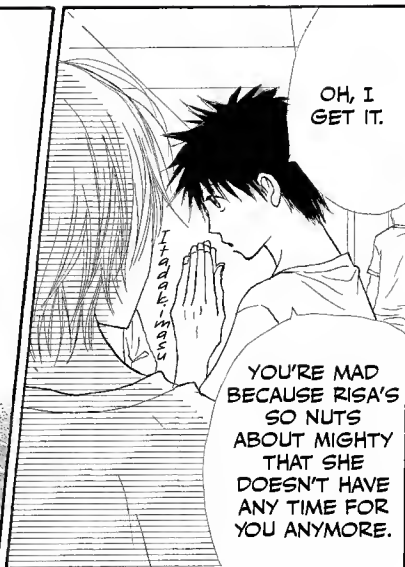
...FINE,
WHAT-
EVER.

MAMA'S
NOT SAYING
ANYTHING
ANYMORE.

RIGHT?!









OH
MIGHTYY...
YOU
RUUUUU...

YOU'RE
THE
KING...

O MIGHTY
YOUR
MAJESTYY...
OF THEE I
SHING...

SO,
SHALL
WE START
OUT ONE-
ONE-ONE
AGAIN,
CAPTAIN?



OH
DEEEAR!

I
CAN'T
PLAY
WITH
THAT
RACKET
GOING
ON!!

WILL
YOU
GUYS
SHUT
UP?!



IT ISN'T
RIGHT
TO BLAME
OTHERS
WHEN YOU
CAN'T PLAY
THE WAY
YOU WANT,
ÔTANI-KUN.

GRRRRR

OKAY!!

Because
he's highly
pooped.

SORRY,
GIRLS, BUT
COULD YOU
CHEER ÔTANI-
KUN ON A
LITTLE TOO?

I AM
STARTING
OVER AND
LIVING FOR
A NEW
LOVE.

I HOPE YOU HIT
YOUR STRIDE
SOON, BECAUSE
FRANKLY, THIS IS
MUCH TOO EASY.
I'VE GOT SOME
FANCY MOVES
I'D LIKE TO
ROLL OUT FOR
RISA TO SEE.

GLARE

BWOOP

FOR
MIGHTY
...

...AND
NO-
BODY
ELSE.

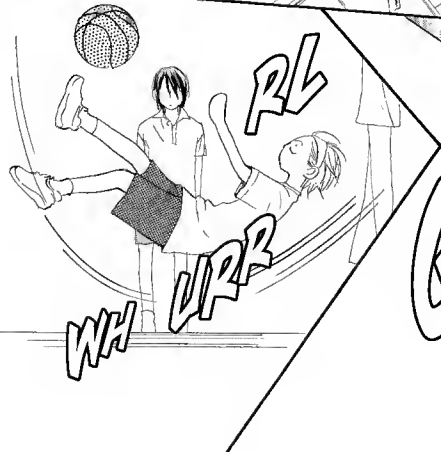
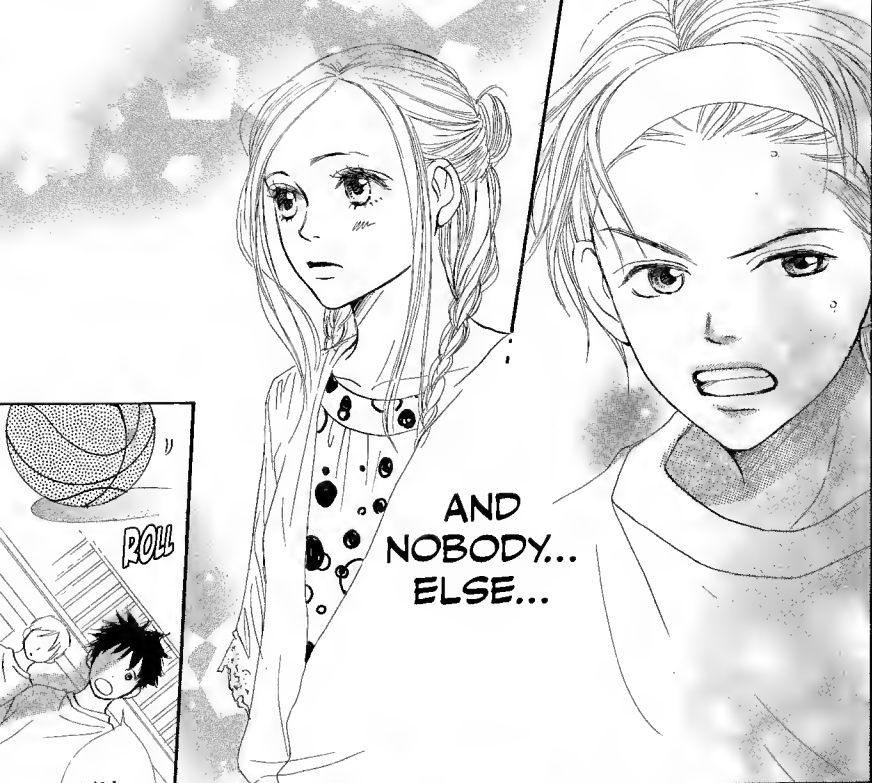
MIGHTY
SAID
HE WAS
GOING
TO MAKE
ME HAPPY.

SO FROM
NOW ON, I
ONLY HAVE
EYES FOR
MIGHTY, AND
NOBODY
ELSE.

FOR
MIGHTY
ONLY.

BWOOP

BWOOP



KA-
THONK

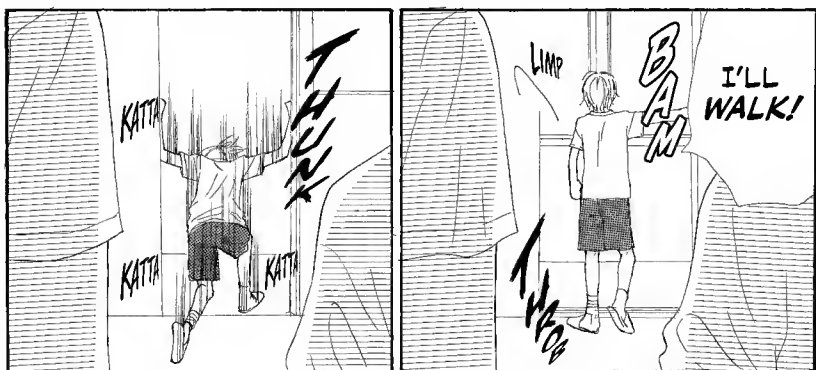
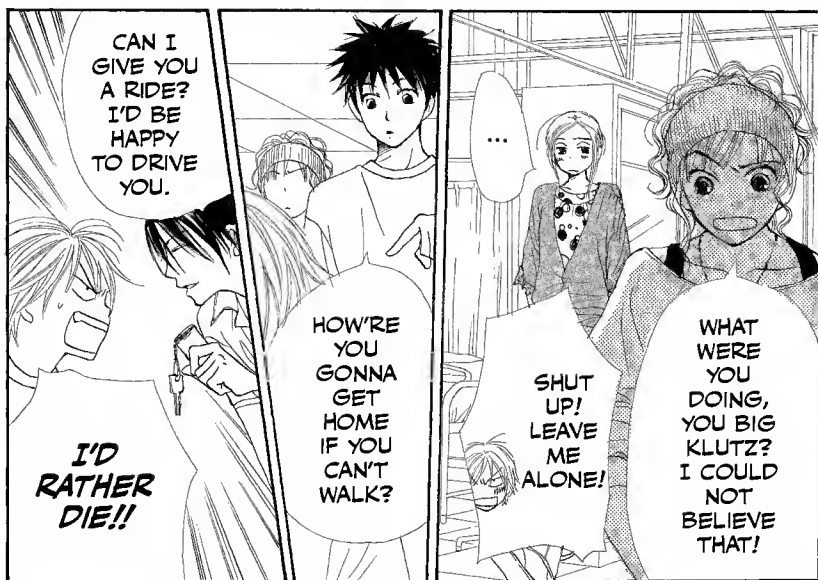
NURSE

!

YOU
SPRAINED
IT.

YOU
BETTER
TAKE A
WEEK OFF
FROM
PRACTICE,
AT LEAST.

...





I
REALLY
DON'T
MIND.
AS I SAID,
I'D BE
HAPPY TO.

TAKE
THE
RIDE,
WHY
DON'T
YOU?

I
SWEAR,
ÔTANI.

THIS IS
NOT THE
TIME TO
PRETEND
YOU'RE
MISTER
TOUGH,
OKAY?



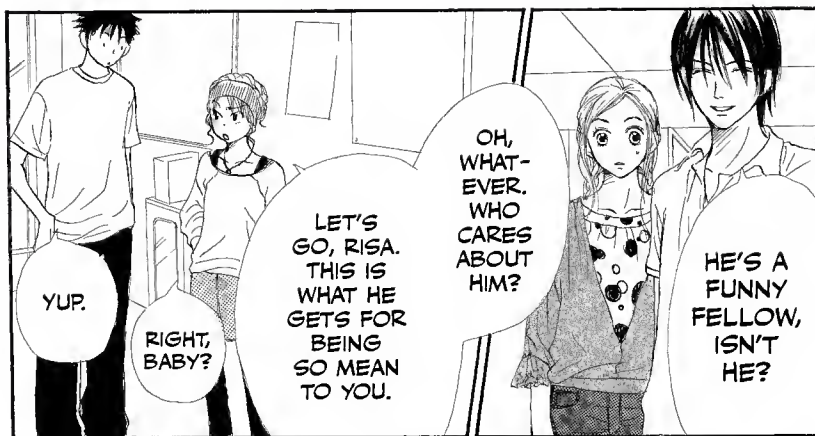
SHUT UP,
ALL OF
YOU!! JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!

ÔTANI!
WAIT A
MINUTE...



YOU
DON'T
MIND,
DO YOU,
RISA?

HEH?





THEY
LET ME
BORROW
THIS
BICYCLE
FROM
SCHOOL.



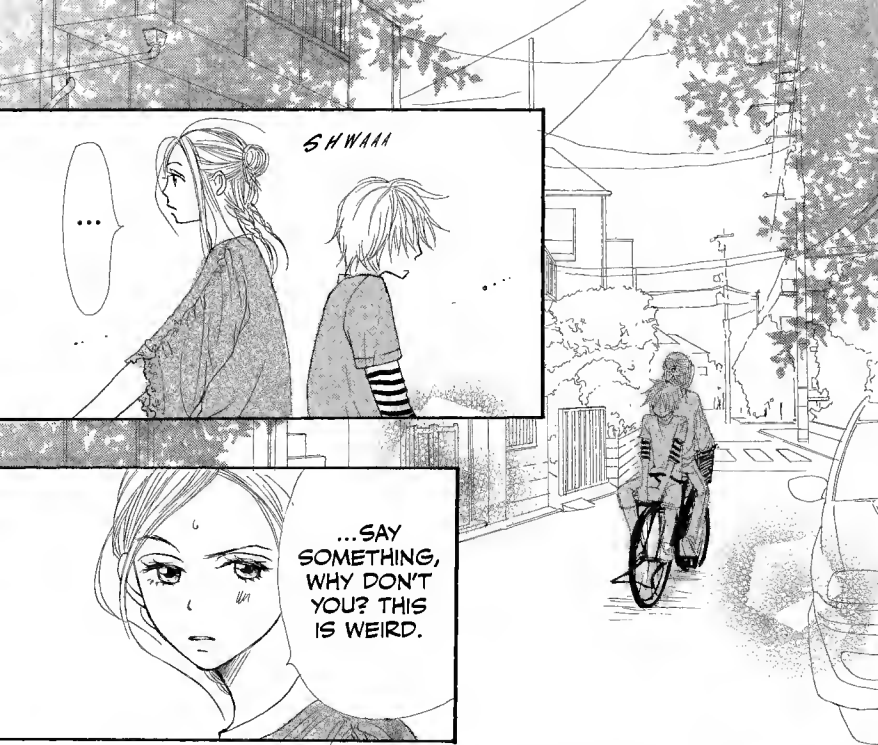
LISTEN TO ME,
STUPID! YOU
LIMP ALONG AT
THAT PACE, BY
THE TIME YOU
GET HOME IT'LL
BE NEXT WEEK!
SO JUST SHUT
UP AND RIDE!!



GET ON.
YOU
CAN SIT
ON THE
BACK.

...

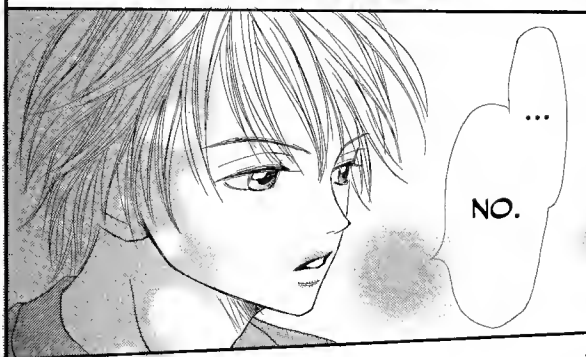
NO
THANKS.





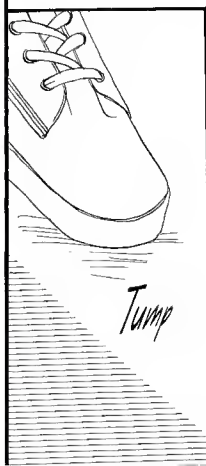
DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE
BUMMING
FOR REAL.
ARE YOU?

HEY...



...

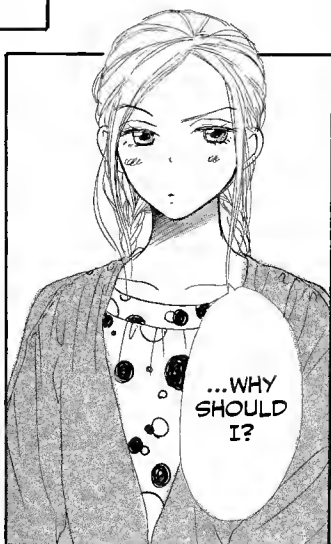
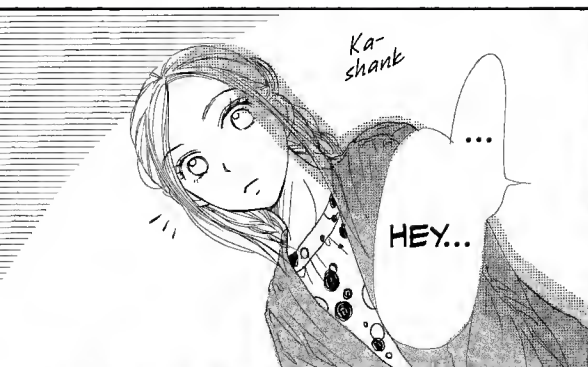
NO.



Tump

...FINE.
BE
THAT
WAY.

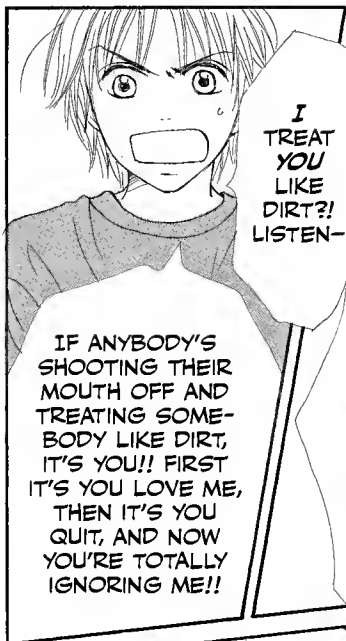






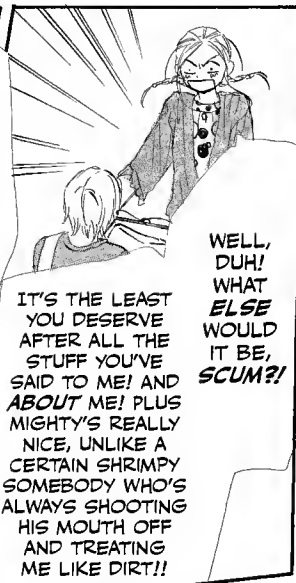
WHAT'S
THE DEAL
WITH THAT?!
IT'S SOME
**HARASSMENT
CAMPAIGN**
AGAINST ME?!

ENJOY
**WHAT?!
BEING A
MORON
?!**



I
TREAT
YOU
LIKE
DIRT?!
LISTEN-

IF ANYBODY'S
SHOOTING THEIR
MOUTH OFF AND
TREATING SOME-
BODY LIKE DIRT,
IT'S YOU!! FIRST
IT'S YOU LOVE ME,
THEN IT'S YOU
QUIT, AND NOW
YOU'RE TOTALLY
IGNORING ME!!



WELL,
DUH!
WHAT
ELSE
WOULD
IT BE,
SCUM?!

IT'S THE LEAST
YOU DESERVE
AFTER ALL THE
STUFF YOU'VE
SAID TO ME! AND
ABOUT ME! PLUS
MIGHTY'S REALLY
NICE, UNLIKE A
CERTAIN SHRIMPY
SOMEBODY WHO'S
ALWAYS SHOOTING
HIS MOUTH OFF
AND TREATING
ME LIKE DIRT!!



**YOU
DO!**

WHAT
DOES
?!

WELL,
IT
**PISSES
ME
OFF!!**

LOOK,
THIS
IS ALL
BECAUSE
YOU...

I
CANNOT
BELIEVE
YOU ARE
SAYING
THIS
TO ME!

**W
H
A
T
?!**

...BUT
WHY?

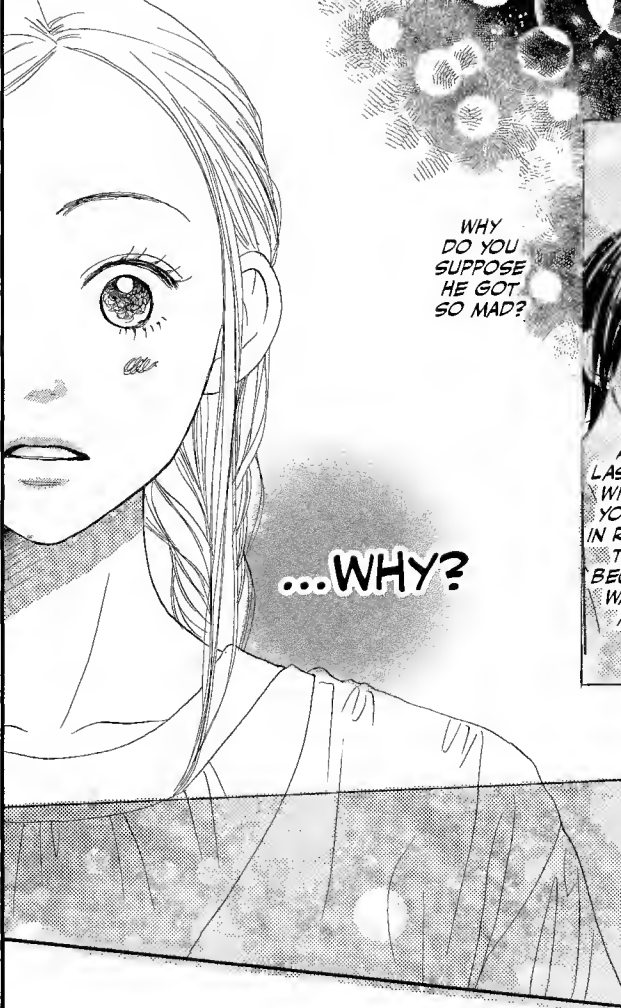
IT JUST
DOES!!
IT GETS
ON MY
NERVES!!

HOW
DO I
KNOW
?!

THE WAY
YOU KEEP
GOING
ON AND
ON ABOUT
THAT MIGHTY
DUDE IS
SERIOUSLY
PISSING
ME OFF!

...WHAT
WAS
THAT
ABOUT?

DON'T
EVER
MENTION
THAT
DUDE'S
NAME IN
FRONT
OF ME
AGAIN!!



WHY
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
HE GOT
SO MAD?

...WHY?



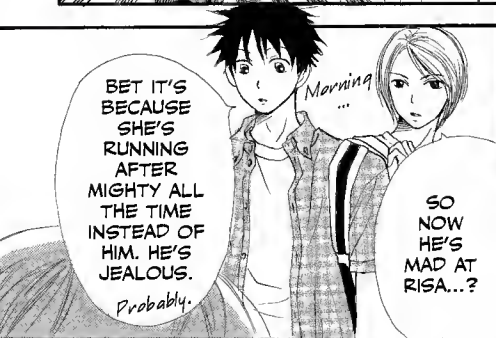
YOU SEE,
I TOLD HIM
I MIGHT
GRAB YOU,
JUST TO
GET A RISE
OUT OF HIM.

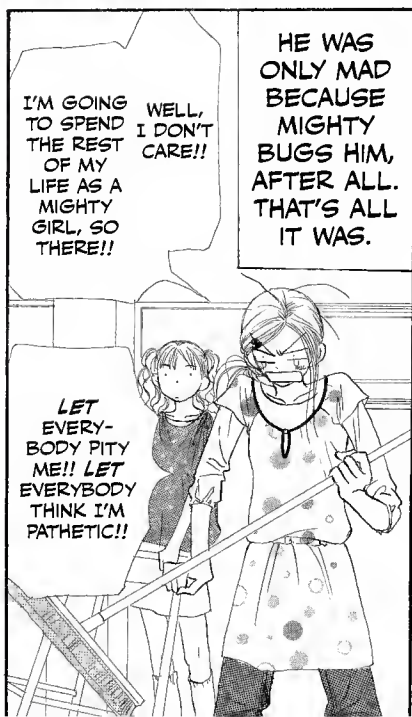
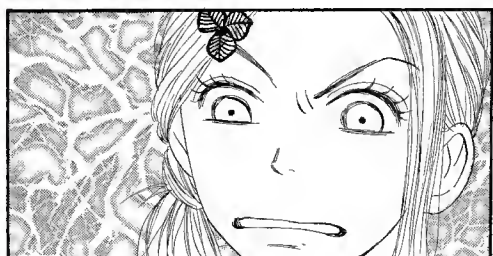
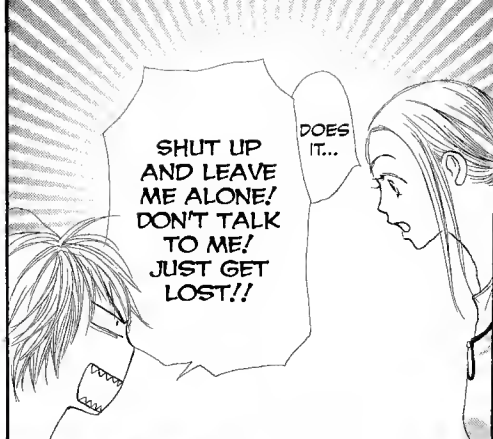
AND HE
LASHED OUT
WITH WHAT
YOU HEARD
IN RESPONSE
TO THAT,
BECAUSE HE
WAS VERY
ANGRY.

THE WAY YOU
KEEP GOING
ON AND ON
ABOUT THAT
MIGHTY DUDE
IS SERIOUSLY
PISSING
ME OFF!

HOW
COME?









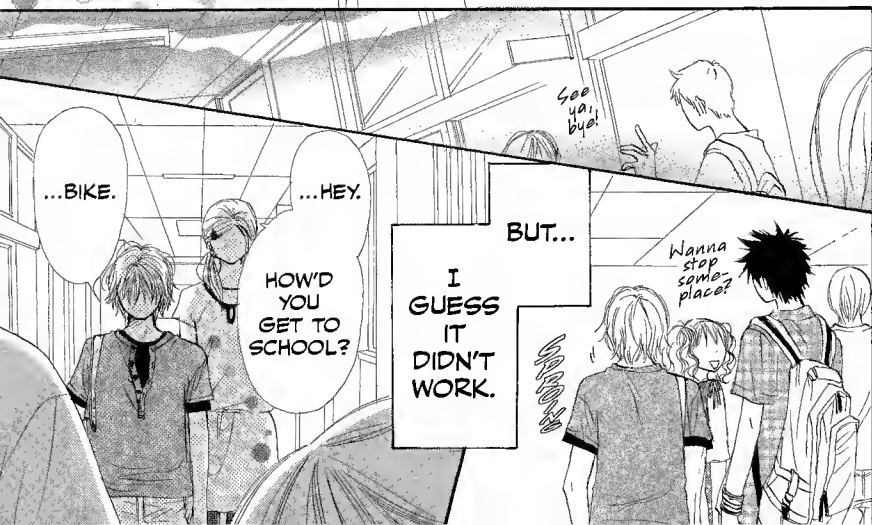
ABOUT
THE ONLY
THING MY
STUPID
BRAIN
COULD
COME UP
WITH...

...WAS
TO DO
SOME-
THING
STUPID
TO GET
HIS
ATTEN-
TION.

SHE
MEANS
NOTHING
TO ME!!

WELL,
GOSH.

THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN
DO AFTER
HE SAYS
SOMETHING
LIKE *THAT*.



...BIKE.

...HEY.

HOW'D
YOU
GET TO
SCHOOL?

BUT...

I
GUESS
IT
DIDN'T
WORK.

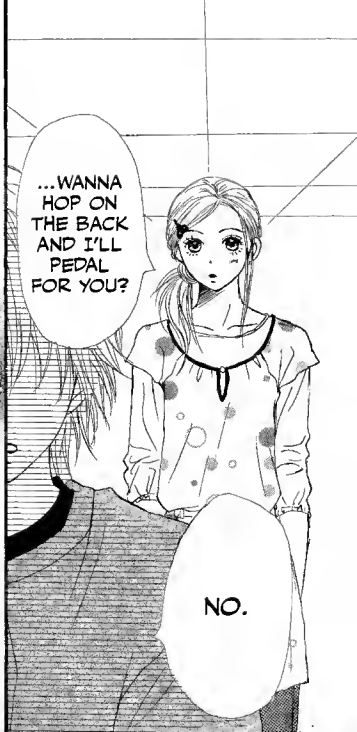
Wanna
stop
some-
place?



GUESS
IT'S
HOPE-
LESS.

THERE
REALLY
IS
NOTHING
I CAN
DO.

OH. HI,
RISA!



...WANNA
HOP ON
THE BACK
AND I'LL
PEDAL
FOR YOU?

NO.



HAS
OTANI-
KUN SAID
SOME-
THING
TO HURT
YOUR
FEELINGS
AGAIN?

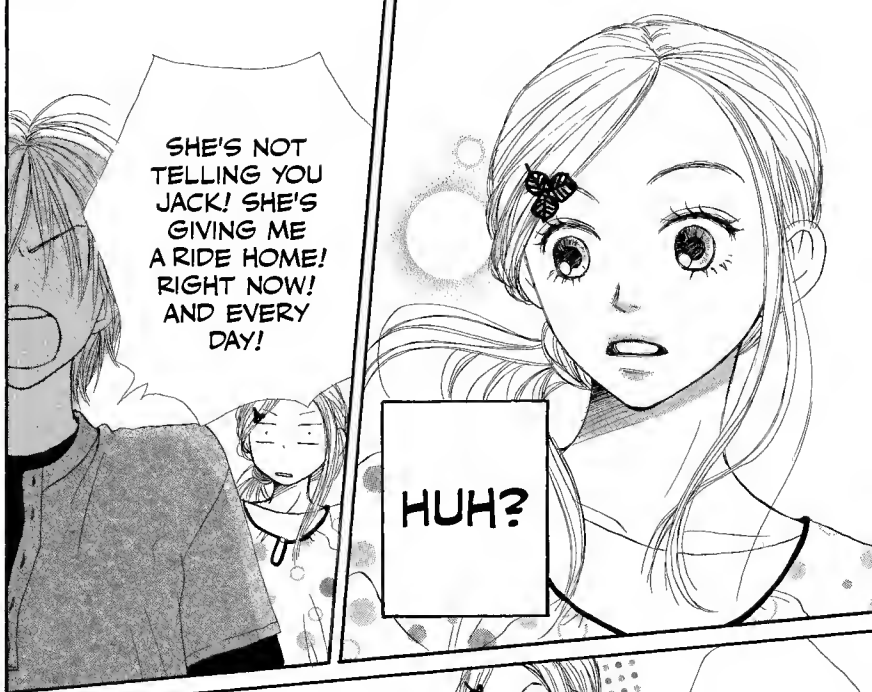
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?



HI,
MIGHTY...







SHE'S NOT
TELLING YOU
JACK! SHE'S
GIVING ME
A RIDE HOME!
RIGHT NOW!
AND EVERY
DAY!

HUH?



OH,
REALLY?

SHUT
UP!

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

YOU
JUST
SAID YOU
DIDN'T
WANT
ME TO!!



...GH!!

SO YOU
CHANGED
YOUR
MIND.

WE'RE
GOING!

YANK

HUH?

WAIT A
SEC...!

WHAT...

I'M
THE ONE
SHE'S
IN LOVE
WITH!!

LISTEN
TO ME,
DUDE!!

...WAS
THAT?!

NOT YOU!!
SHE DOES
NOT HAVE
THE HOTS
FOR YOU,
GOT THAT?!

...HEY.

I WISH
YOU'D STOP
SHOOTING
YOUR BIG
MOUTH OFF
LIKE THAT.

...

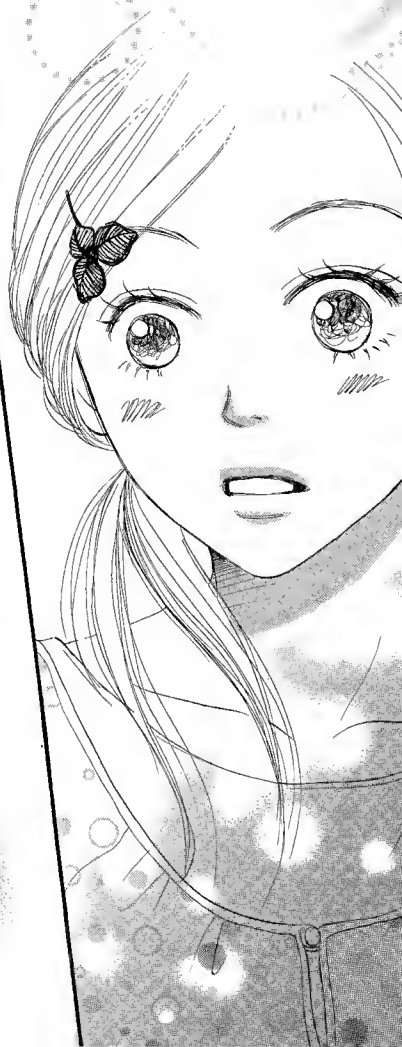
MM.

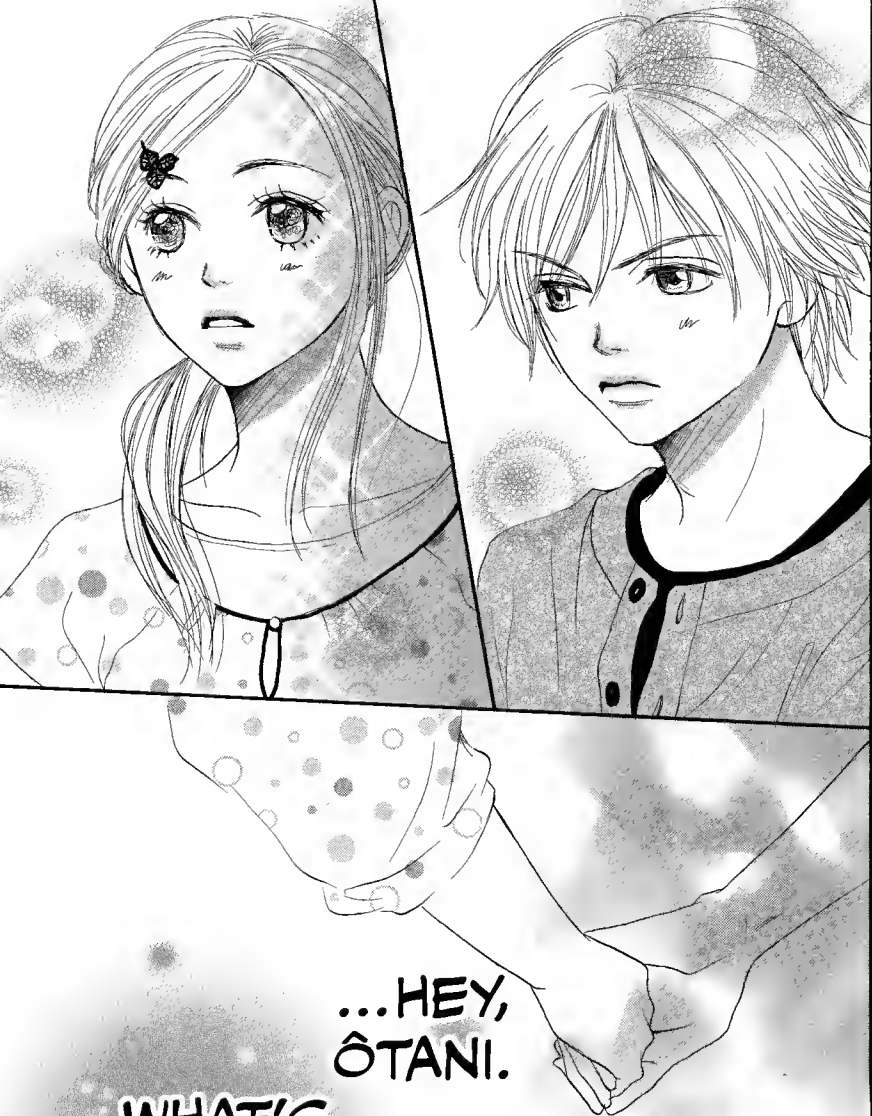
'CUZ I
AM NOT
IN LOVE
WITH YOU,
OKAY?

I QUIT.
REMEMBER?

...MM.

...WHAT
WAS
THAT...?





...HEY,
ÔTANI.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

《...to be continued》



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SUPER
UNPOPULAR
SERIES
"24 HOURS
WITH
THE LCDP"
BACK
WITH AN
EXTRA
EPISODE!



SPECIAL
REPORT:
INSIDE
THE
"SHUEI
ACADEMY
GIRL
RESEARCH
'CLUB'
RADIO
PROGRAM!

2003
11
NOVEMBER

CHECK!



Special report:
Inside the "Shuei Academy Girl Research Club"
Radio Program!




In this way, all kinds of secrets came to light. (?)



Hello! Nakahara again. So anyway, I went on the radio. I wasn't on air for very long, but still, boy was I nervous. I'm not a very good talker. I'm boring! The stuff I talk about is so boring! But the two presenters came to my rescue by being funny and charming and I had a really good time. Both Suwabe-san and Takahashi-san were soooooo nice! And even though they're probably super-busy, they took the time to read all my manga before the show, and actually remembered them all. swooon I was so touched. And then, after the show, they were so concerned, asking me if I'd left out anything I'd wanted to say... swooon They were both so wonderful that I thought, when I'm reborn I want to be just like them! They were so great... And, since they're voice actors, they both had such nice voices... Right now I am totally disgusted at my pathetic inability to put things into words.

Those two were too wonderful for me to describe! Heh, heh! ~?

Suwabe-san, Takahashi-san and some other voice actors are in a group called STAMEN, which has a CD out. Check it out! ♡  ☆

Gotta say... When I think back to how I dragged myself to the studio muttering, "A radio show... I don't believe this..."

I want to punch myself in the nose. 

All the program crew were so nice, too...and so great... And to think, all these wonderful people support my manga, even if it's for work, well... I am blessed. Just knowing this has made me a bigger person. Now I'm like, "Go, me! You can do it!" I am so glad I went. I tell you, you gotta be positive and experience everything. So come on, everybody, forward, march!! ...I was trying to end on an inspirational note, but it didn't happen. hahahahaha The End!!

In a
dark
corner
of
Osaka...

24 HOURS WITH THE LCDP

BY Aya Nakahara

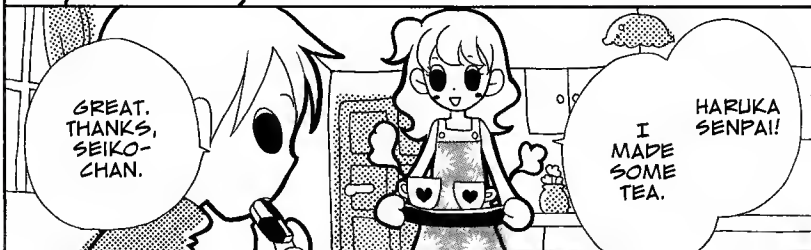
Extra episode
"The Light-Fingered Margarets'
Secret Meeting"

...a city on
a planet in a
universe some-
where, the
Light-Fingered
Margarets
have their
secret hideout.



GREAT.
THANKS,
SEIKO-
CHAN.

HARUKA
SENPAI!
I
MADE
SOME
TEA.

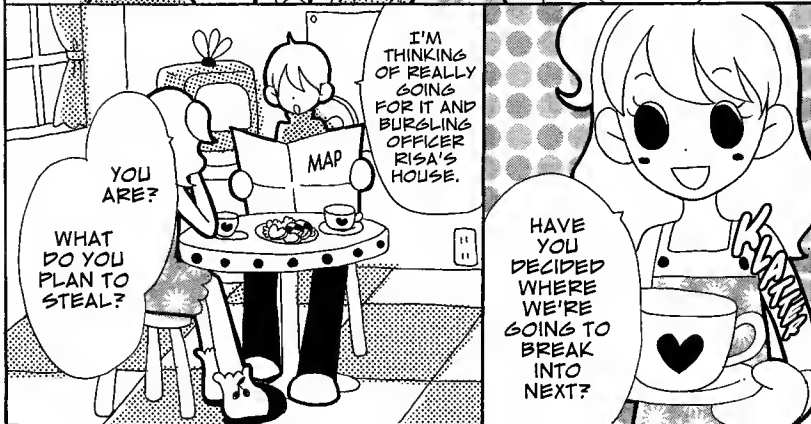


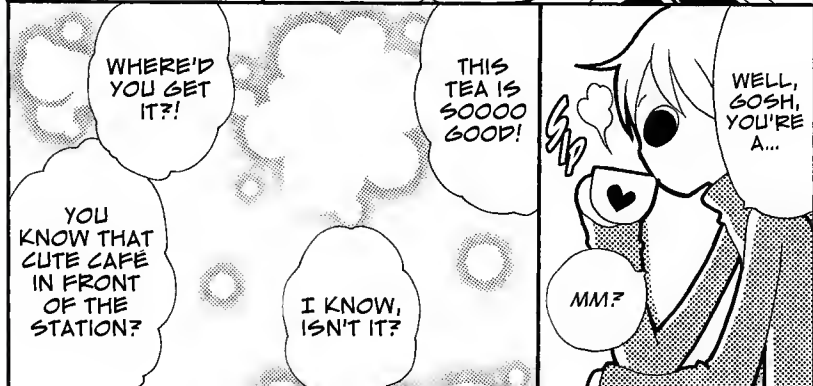
WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN TO
STEAL?

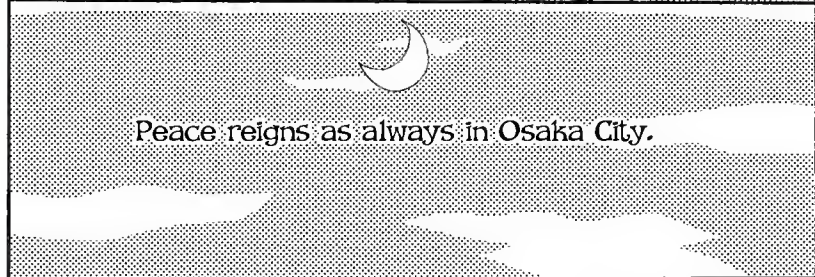
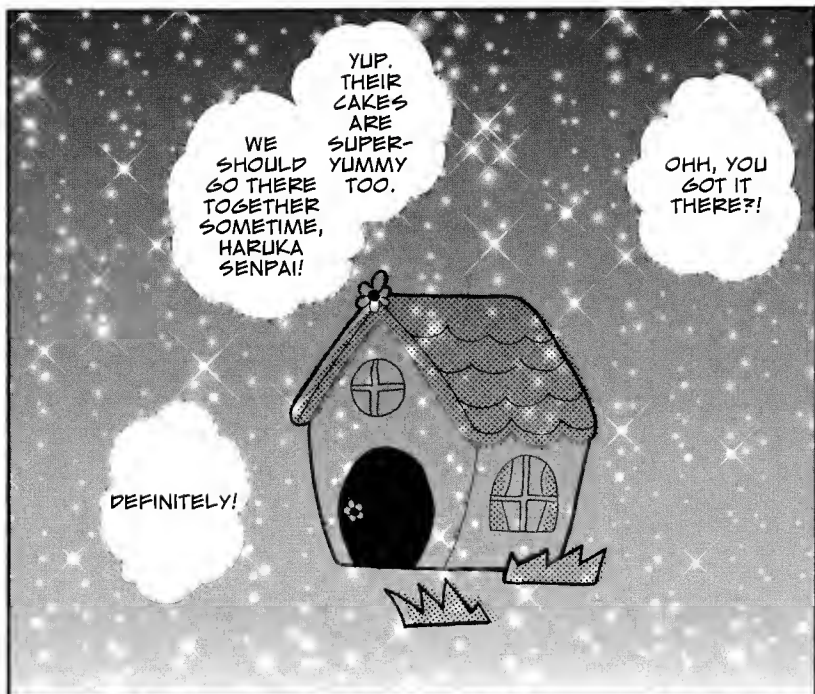
YOU
ARE?

I'M
THINKING
OF REALLY
GOING
FOR IT AND
BURGLING
OFFICER
RISA'S
HOUSE.

HAVE
YOU
DECIDED
WHERE
WE'RE
GOING TO
BREAK
INTO NEXT?







glossary

Page 13, panel 2: Zepp Osaka

Named after the real venue, Zepp Osaka. There are also Zepp venues in others Japanese cities such as Tokyo, Sendai, and Fukuoka.

Page 13, panel 5: White Day

White Day is a Japanese holiday that occurs exactly one month after Valentine's Day, and is a chance for boys and men to give reciprocal presents to the ladies in their lives. Marshmallows and white chocolate are traditional, but not required.

Page 14, panel 3: Ōtani's long nose

In Japanese, someone who's very boastful or vain is described as being a *tengu*. A *tengu* is a mountain spirit who has wings and a long nose.

Page 17, panel 2: Chu and mouse

In Japanese, *chu* is the sound of a kiss and *chu chu* is the sound a mouse makes. All Nobu's talk of kissing makes her sound like a mouse.

Page 22, panel 2: Atchan

A nickname for Atsushi, Ōtani's given name. It is a common form of Japanese nickname, where *chan* is added after the first syllable of a name.

Page 43, panel 3: A new school year

In Japan, the school year is three terms and begins in spring rather than fall.

Page 50, panel 5: Call 119

119 is the Japanese emergency number to call in case of a fire. 110 is the number to call for the police.

Page 146, panel 1: Itadakimasu

What you say before you eat. Literally, it is the polite form for "I receive."



When I stop to think about it, it's already eight years since my debut as a manga artist. Whaaa! Lately, through manga, I've been getting lots of opportunities to meet people who do other, non-manga work, and it's been a real learning experience. Although they don't draw manga, they do create things, so in that sense our work is the same, and hearing what they have to say is very interesting to me. Gotta say, boy am I glad I'm a manga artist! I'm so lucky! I'll keep working hard at it for years and years!

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyou-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 6

The Shjoa Beat Manga Edition



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